May 6, 1969

To: Shirley Oldemeyer
State Organizer
With all our love
Centennial Chapter F W Pueblo,
Colorado

Out Of The Heart

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Out Of The Heart

A Century of P.E.O.

1869-1969

by Stella Clapp

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THE P.E.O. SISTERHOOD
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1968

Dedication

To the seven founders

Mary Allen
Alice Bird
Hattie Briggs
Alice Coffin
Suela Pearson
Franc Roads
Ella Stewart

who gave us P.E.O. as a symbol of their love and friendship for each other;

to Winona Evans Reeves

who became the superb link between the founders and P.E.O. today;

to each P.E.O. who has worn the golden star

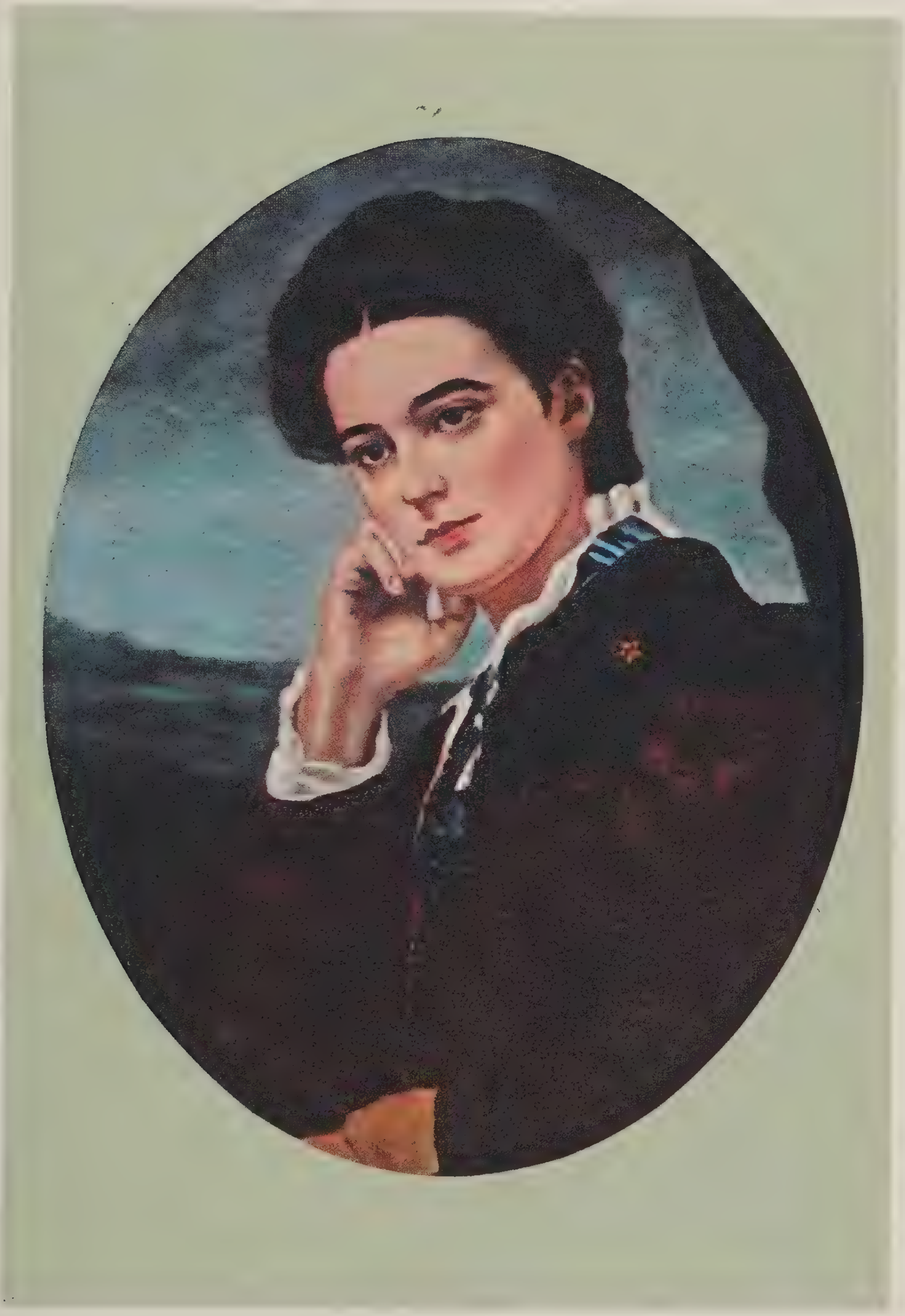
and who, through her love and dedicated service, has brought distinction to P.E.O.,

this book is lovingly and gratefully dedicated.

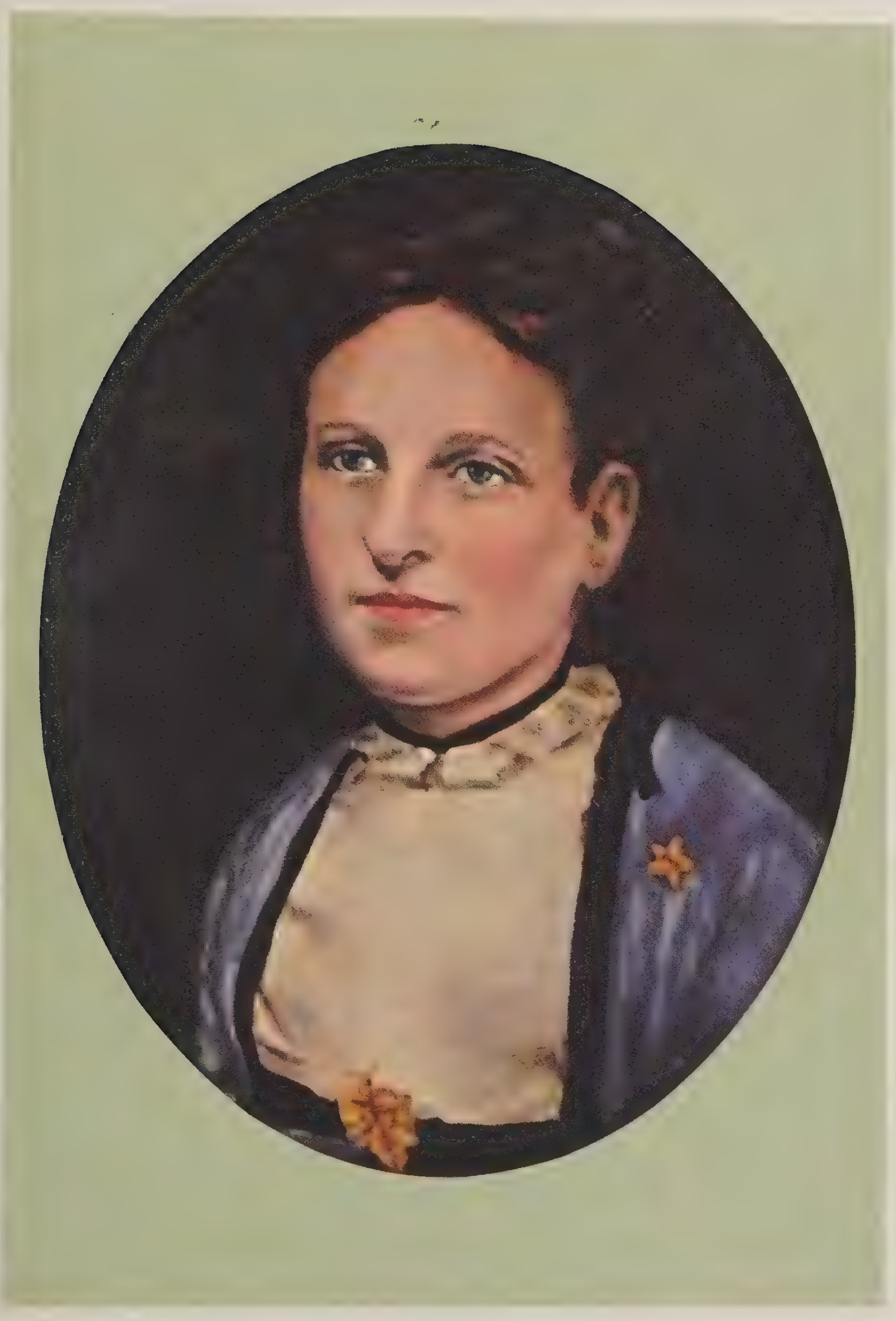
Keep thy heart with all diligence
for out of it are the issues of life.

—Proverbs 4:23

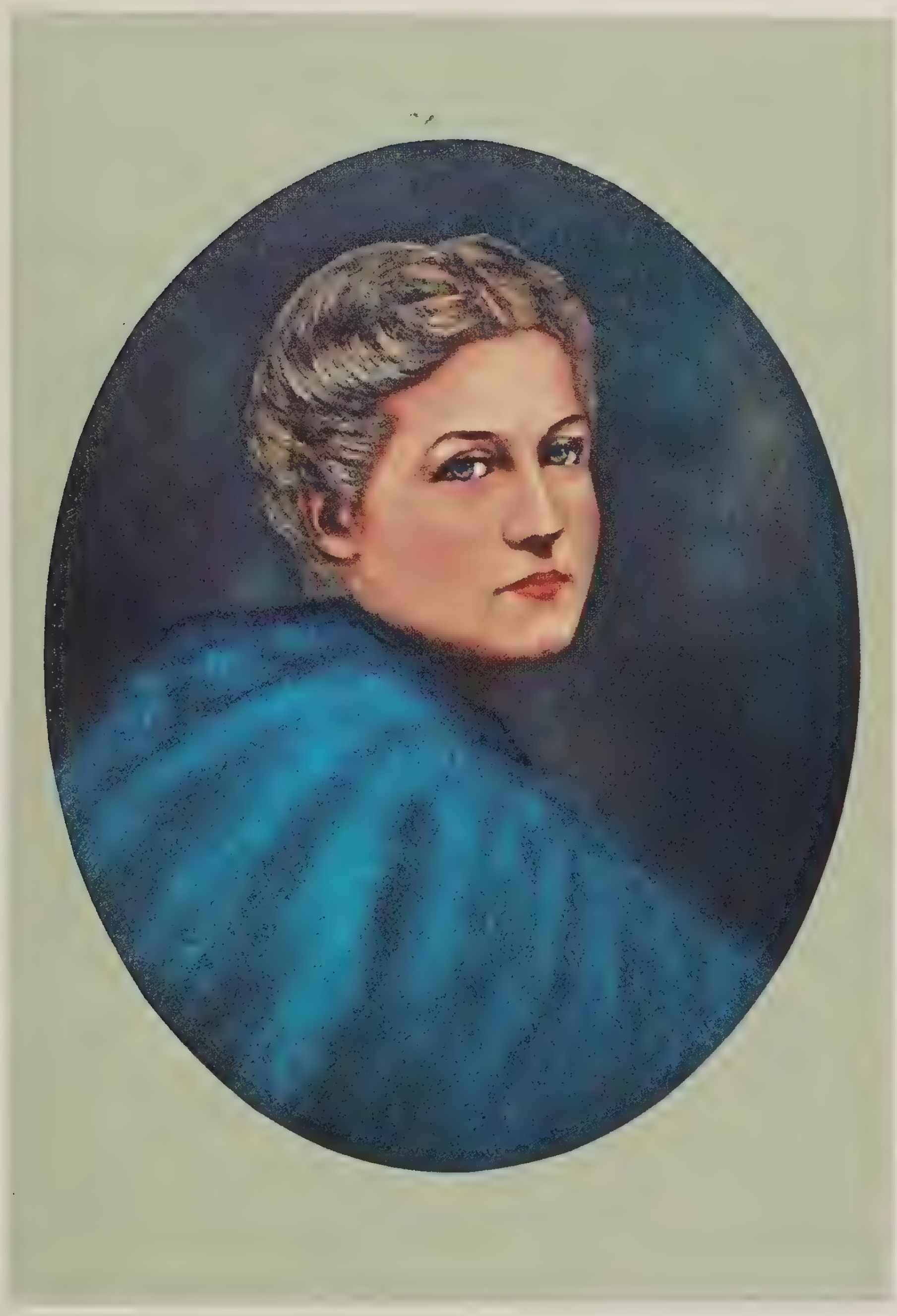
Mary Allen (Stafford)
December 30, 1848
July 10, 1927



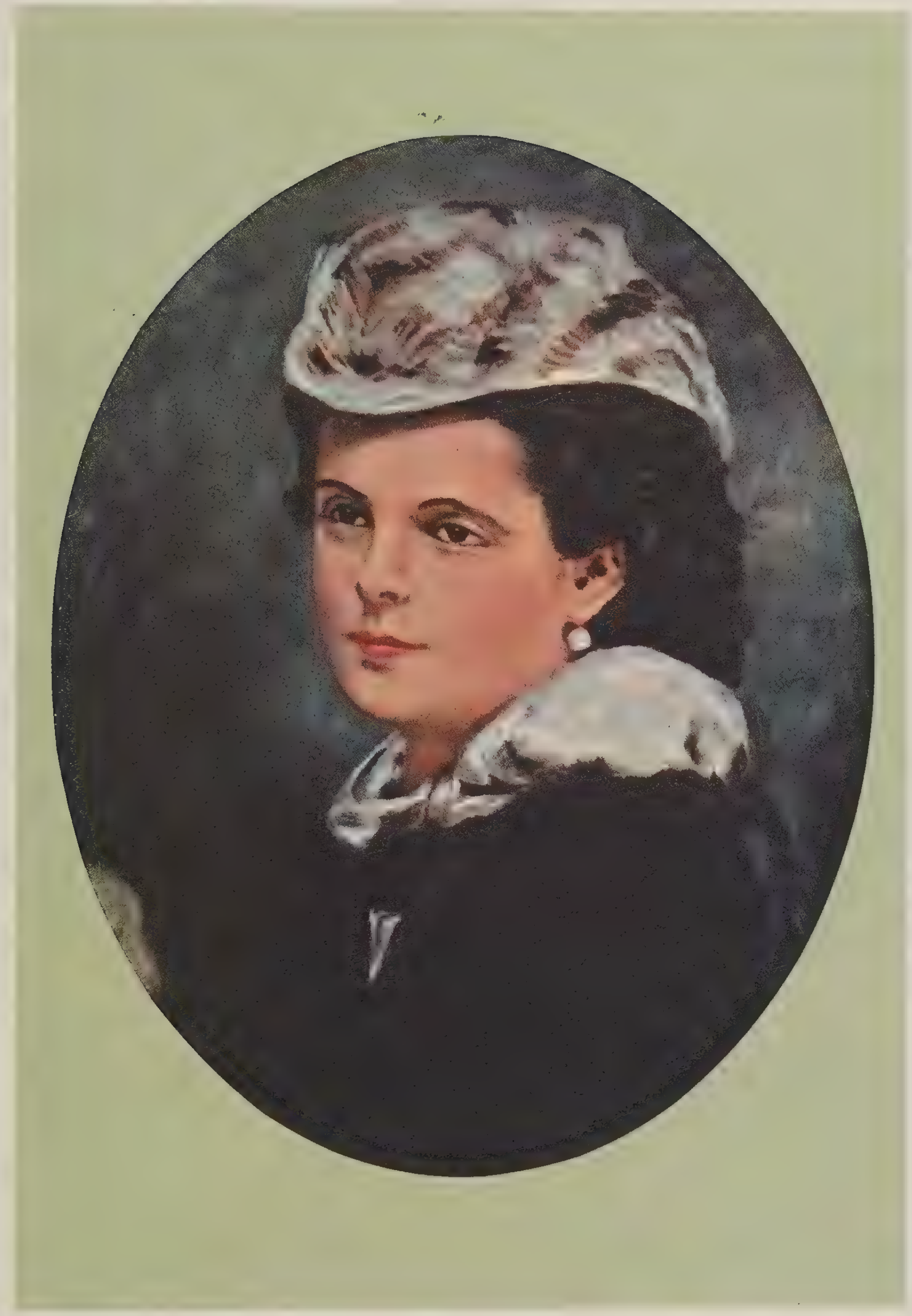
Alice Bird (Babb)
May 8, 1850
November 21, 1926



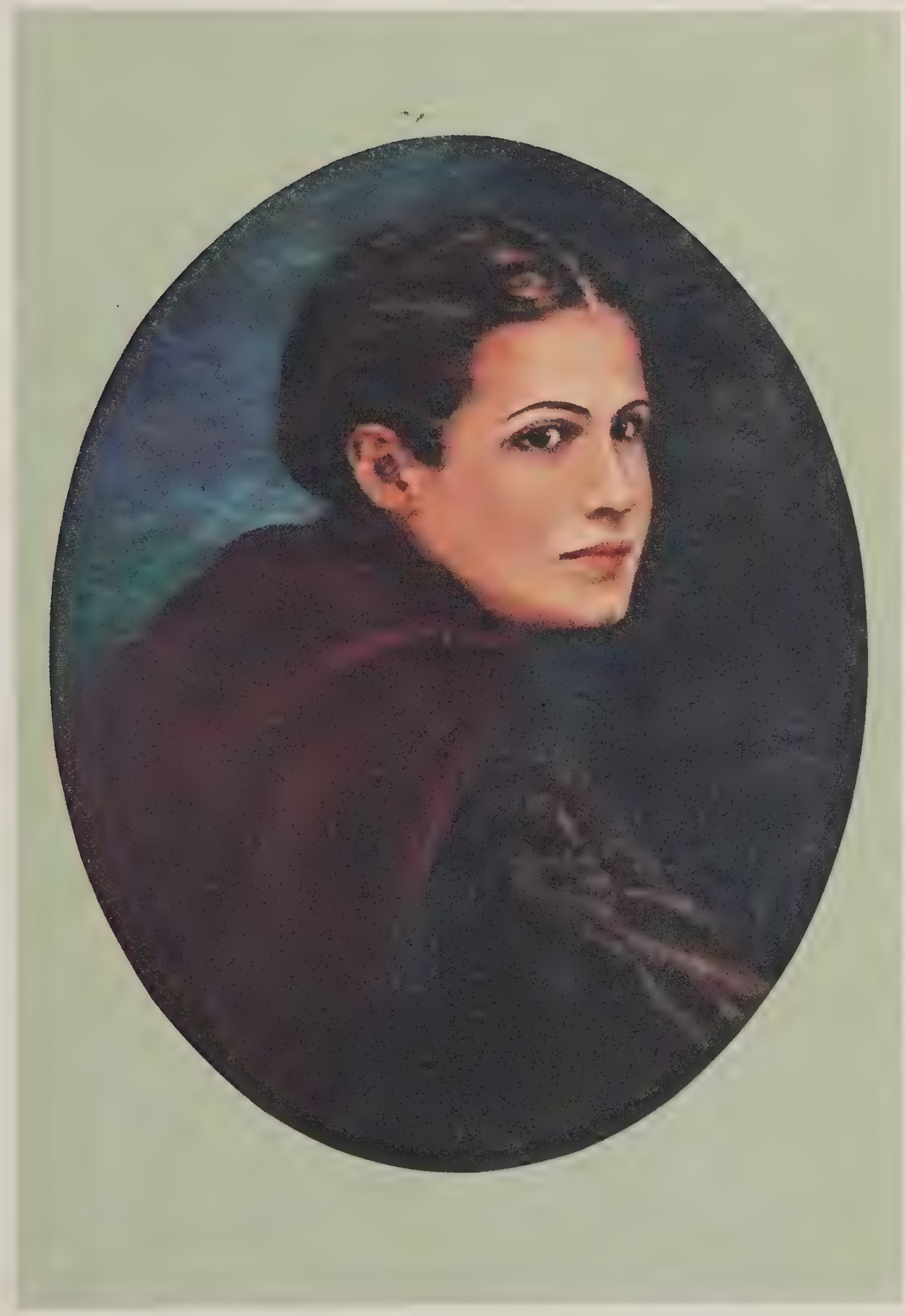
Hattie Briggs (Bousquet)
October 10, 1849
June 22, 1877



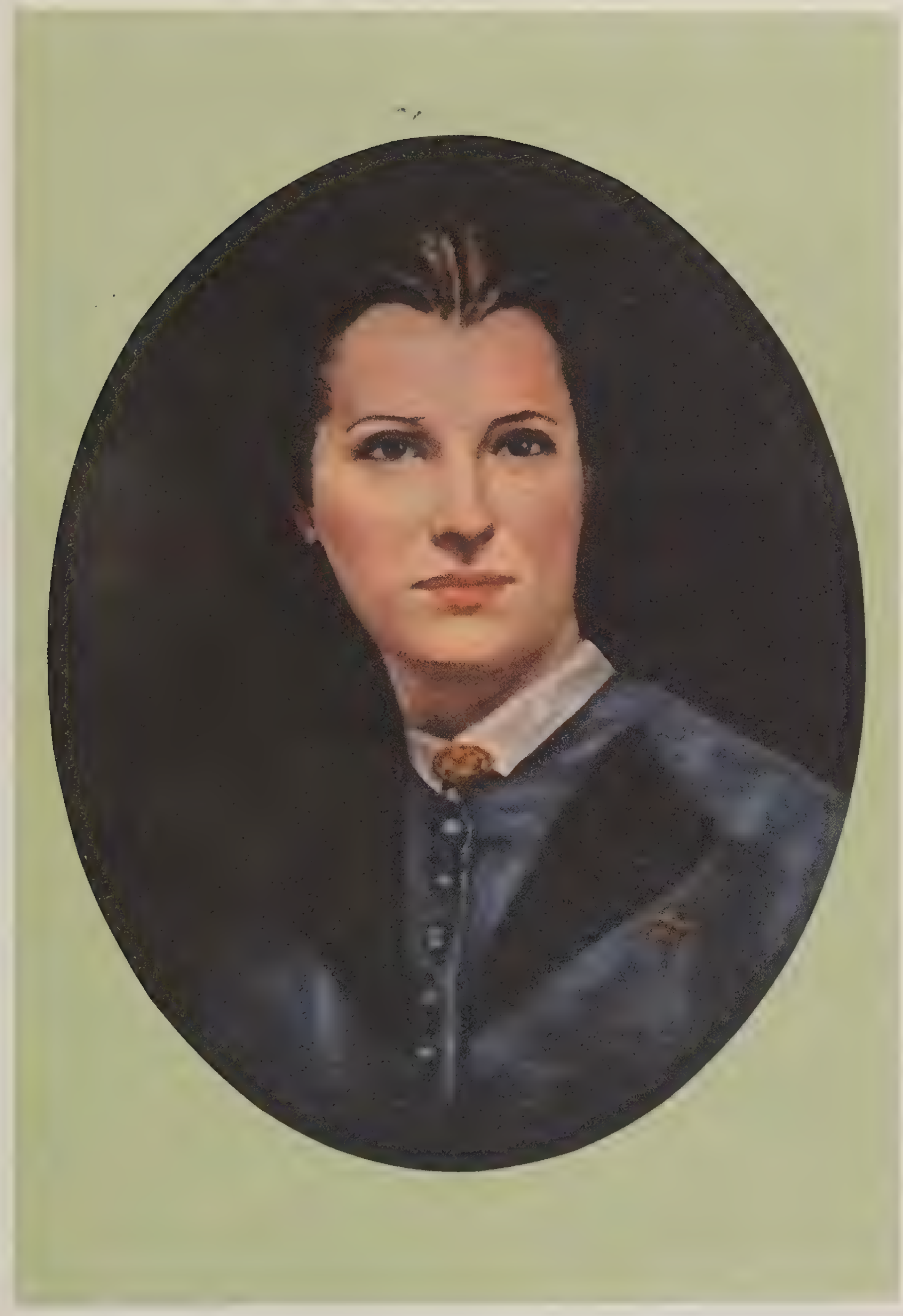
Alice Coffin
March 29, 1848
July 28, 1888



Suela Pearson (Penfield)
August 24, 1851
September 20, 1920



Franc Roads (Elliott)
February 10, 1852
August 9, 1924



Ella Stewart
May 8, 1848
December 12, 1894

Foreword

As P.E.O. observes its one-hundredth anniversary, it is appropriate that a history of its first century be published for the centennial observance in 1969. Accordingly, such publication was authorized by Supreme Chapter and in October, 1968, each local chapter of P.E.O. was presented a copy of the book you hold in your hand. Stella Cady Clapp, a past president of Kansas State Chapter, in 1959 was named historian, a Committee of One to prepare the manuscript for this book, the first documented history of the P.E.O. Sisterhood which was founded as a college sorority at Iowa Wesleyan College and later became a community group that in its first 100 years grew to a membership of over 165,000 with over 4500 chapters in the United States and Canada. As a philanthropic and educational organization, the sisterhood maintains three educational philanthropies: The P.E.O. Educational Fund, a revolving loan fund established in 1907 to lend money to young women needing it for education beyond high school; Cottey Junior College for Women, a fully accredited liberal arts college at Nevada, Missouri; the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund, a philanthropy established in 1949 to provide scholarships for foreign students to pursue graduate study in the United States and Canada.

The growth of P.E.O. is an exciting story of dedication in which every member has had a part, this dedication in itself a tribute to the seven young college girls who set down the founding principles on January 21, 1869. In preparing her manuscript, Historian Stella Clapp has worked indefatigably, perusing all available records and from them extracting the pertinent facts that tell the official story of P.E.O. at the threshold of its second century. Her assignment was lovingly done. Her story is beautifully told. I commend her for her work. I commend her work to you.

Ethel O. Gardner
President of Supreme Chapter

June, 1968

Acknowledgments

Out of the Heart: A Century of P.E.O. is, first of all, a source book. In addition, it is an attempt to produce a book that will be pleasant reading; one that contains historical data properly documented and reflects something of the social history of the century 1869-1969.

With my appointment as historian in 1959 came the instruction that some publication should be in print for the P.E.O. centennial anniversary in 1969. This book is the result.

Writing such a volume of history involves many people in many ways. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to members of executive boards of Supreme Chapter, past and present, who not only made source material available, but also lent enthusiastic encouragement in every possible way. Grateful thanks are extended to Miss Margaret Mohler and Miss Erma Adams who helped me locate source material, and to members of Chapter P, Illinois, for a copy of their booklet, Reminiscences, printed in 1917, and for permission to quote from it. I am deeply grateful to recent presidents and other members of Chapter Original A who made available their Chapter minutes, the only documentary source of the early years of P.E.O.

I am indeed grateful to Mrs. Phyllis O'Briant of Chapter B (old F) Bloomfield, Iowa, who patiently searched newspaper files for possible mention of early conventions; and to those P.E.O.'s and B.I.L.'s in Cleveland, Ohio, Pella, Iowa, and Newton, Iowa, who searched, found, and checked on grave markers for vital statistics of three founders: Suela Pearson Penfield, Hattie Briggs Bousquet, and Alice Virginia Coffin.

I am indebted to Dr. J. Raymond Chadwick (deceased 1961) for material concerning Iowa Wesleyan College, made available in 1960; and to Dr. Louis A. Haselmayer and Mr. Larry L. Belles for material furnished in recent years; to Mrs. Carrie B. Simpson (deceased 1964), the only official historian to precede me; and to the editors of The P.E.O. Record who have recorded historical information with each publication of the magazine.

All honor and thanks to members of the six state chapters—Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, California, and New Jersey—that have published state P.E.O. histories helpful to me in many ways; to state chapter officers or committee members who have answered my requests for specific information.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My grateful thanks go to Mrs. Irene Kerr and Mr. Lowell Brandner who have read manuscript and offered valuable suggestions; to Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt and Mrs. Alvina Mattes who have edited copy and handled many details of publication as members of the Publication Committee; to Mrs. Frances Moyer, a P.E.O. friend of long standing who efficiently and cheerfully typed and retyped manuscript for this volume of history; to Mrs. Betty Mosier, another P.E.O. who made the original drawings for the book cover and end sheets.

Finally, my warm thanks are given to my husband, A. L. Clapp, for his thoughtful reading of my manuscript and for his many valuable suggestions, but even more for his interest and encouragement. Without his help this volume would not have been written.

April, 1968 *Stella Cady Clapp*

STELLA CADY CLAPP

Historian, Supreme Chapter, P.E.O. Sisterhood
President, Kansas State Chapter, 1946-47
Trustee, P.E.O. Supply Department, 1947-53
Member, Chapter BD, Kansas

Author, *OUT OF THE HEART: A Century of P.E.O.*

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Introduction

This volume of history marks the centennial anniversary of P.E.O., January 21, 1969. At this century mark, P.E.O. has become an international organization of women, with membership in the United States and Canada, its philanthropies devoted to furthering education for women.

P.E.O. owns and administers Cottey College for women at Nevada, Missouri; directs a large, revolving loan fund, known as the P.E.O. Educational Fund; and has established and administers the International Peace Scholarship Fund, whereby qualified young women from foreign countries continue their education at the graduate schools of their choice in Canada or the United States.

P.E.O. finds expression of its basic principles through service to these projects, for P.E.O. was formed to commemorate the love and friendship of seven young women. It began as a small society on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan University, one of the embryonic sororities, but soon chose to go entirely off the campus and into a broader field of service.

The Time

P.E.O., born in 1869, was little more than a generation removed from the first great surge of Midwestern expansion. Railroads had pushed their way across the continent, but river navigation still flourished and worn and beaten trailways still etched the face of the prairie.

The lure of free land had drawn thousands of families to this vast area. With them had come merchants, teachers, preachers, or others intent upon building an acceptable way of life. Neither fear, nor sickness, nor death, nor hardships stemmed that human tide.

Those pioneers were sturdy people. They built their homes, their towns, and with the help of friends and church groups in the East, their churches and their schools. And when they were built, the settlers knew those things were good, and they reached for greater things.

The Place

Many pioneer families interested in education were drawn to the area of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, which early in its existence was promoted as a cultural center and later was called the "Athens of Iowa."

Settlement had started in Henry County, Iowa, in the 1830's. By 1840 Mount Pleasant, the county seat, had approximately 300 inhabitants, a large number of them merchants and professional men.

Four church denominations had established organizations within the town by 1841: the Methodist Episcopal, the Congregational, the Cumberland Presbyterian, and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Howe's Academy was established there in 1842. Mr. Howe was a leader in the Congregational group. His school filled a very real need. Originally, Howe's Academy was called the High School and Female Seminary, but soon became known only as Howe's Academy. Some of the P.E.O. founders attended high school there.

In 1863 the Mount Pleasant Female Seminary was established by the Reverend G. P. Bergen. A year later the Presbyterian minister, E. L. Belden, assumed control and the school became known as Belden's Female Seminary, sometimes spoken of more acceptably, as Belden's Young Ladies Seminary. This school was housed in a four-story colonial building at the east edge of town. Registration usually reached 100 or more and at times there were as many as eight faculty members. The Seminary ceased operations in 1879, after the death of both Mr. and Mrs. Belden. The depression of the late seventies had weakened the patronage, and the preference for coeducational schools such as Iowa Wesleyan finally forced the Seminary to close.

It is the story of Iowa Wesleyan, or the Institute, as it was first called, which provides the background for P.E.O. A bill to establish a state university at Mount Pleasant was enacted by the territorial legislature of Iowa, and was approved by the governor January 16, 1840. But no appropriation was made and no further action taken. Sixteen citizens of Mount Pleasant, determined to have a college in their town, petitioned the legislature to establish a Methodist school there. The measure was approved and the Mount Pleasant Literary Institute was chartered February 17, 1842. Later that year, or early in 1843, organization was completed under the name of the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute.

Four citizens, John Jones, J. C. Hall, Samuel Brazelton, and Peter Smith donated twenty acres of land in the north part of town for the college campus, stipulating that a building must be erected on the land within three years. Then began the struggle for funds, faculty, and students which lasted in varying degrees for a quarter century.

Pioneer Hall, a two story building, was completed within the three year limit. For a time this building was known merely as the Institute Building. Classes were held in rooms on the first floor, beginning early in 1845. On the second floor were two apartments occupied by President Huestis and the Reverend I. I. Stewart and their families. The Reverend Mr. Stewart was the father of Ella Stewart, one of the founders of P.E.O. He was presiding elder for the Methodist Church in that section of Iowa, and later served as financial agent for the college. Tuition was set at twelve dollars a year for elementary students, sixteen dollars for high school, and twenty dollars for college. From the beginning, a bid was made for young women students.

Financial support for the college was a continuous concern and often the fate of the college hung upon its ability to acquire a few thousand dollars, usually through small contributions. Presidents and financial agents of the college traveled extensively seeking funds. For the most part, Mount Pleasant and southeastern Iowa generously carried the major part of the support for the institution.

The school had been designated, originally, as a Methodist college. In August 1844 and again in 1846, the trustees petitioned the Iowa Conference of the Methodist Church for recognition and support. The requests were not granted since the Iowa City College was receiving support at that time. Then in September, 1849, after the Iowa City College had disbanded, the trustees of the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute again offered their school to the conference and it was accepted. Funds were scanty for the next two years, necessitating periodic closing of classes until additional contributions could be collected.

A change of status came in 1853, with the arrival of James Harlan as president. Harlan was a young man of unusual ability, vision and enthusiasm. He had been trained as a lawyer but he also possessed a love for education and politics. He requested and received the promise of an $800 a year salary, and the erection and equipment of a large new building on the campus. His purpose was to transform the Collegiate Institute from its combined grade, academy, college level to a university capable of granting degrees. Times were favorable, with many new settlers and a trend toward business expansion.

The building of Main Hall progressed rapidly in spite of construction difficulties. It was financed largely through personal gifts and the sale of Perpetual Scholarships at $100 each. The three-story building, one of the finest in the Midwest, cost $17,500. It was first occupied in October, 1855.

A revision of the curriculum was made with emphasis on the university level. Courses were established leading to Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. The Bachelor of Arts, or classical degree, required a general knowledge in many fields, with a predominance of courses in Greek and Latin. Requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree were similar except that Latin and Greek were omitted and additional science courses added; this made it possible to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in three years. There were also courses in mathematics, French, German, music, and art for those who wished them. Many new courses were added during the years that immediately followed. January 25, 1855, the name of the Institute was changed to Iowa Wesleyan University and it became the first coeducational institution west of the Mississippi to grant degrees.

The Circumstance

P.E.O. was no hastily conceived plan. Through social and economic trends it had been in the making for centuries. Christianity, the industrial and mechanical revolutions, education, the Feminist Movement, western expansion, the Civil War, the fraternity system—all contributed toward its development.

Exactly when or where the idea of P.E.O. first entered the consciousness of the seven founders, or who spoke the first experimental words which stimulated the imagination of the seven until they visioned a society of their own, is not known. There must have been talk of the fraternity system which originated at William and Mary College in 1776 as Phi Beta Kappa, and became an honorary organization in 1831. The direct ancestor of the fraternity system, as it developed in the United States, was the Kappa Alpha fraternity, organized at Union College in New York in 1825. It spread gradually to other colleges. Soon other groups were founded and the fraternity system became a well established social development in the United States. A chapter of Beta Theta Pi had been chartered at Iowa Wesleyan University in June of 1868.

It is doubtful that the seven founders ever mentioned or even heard of the first known secret society for women: the Adelphian Society, organized at Wesleyan Female College, Macon, Georgia, in 1851. It was a small group, active only a few years, being suspended during the Civil War when enrollment dropped to an extremely low level. The Adelphian Society lay dormant for almost half a century before it was revived as Alpha Delta Phi in 1905, to become Alpha Delta Pi in 1913.

There could have been talk of the "A" society, active at Monmouth, Illinois, in 1867. According to Emma Brownlee Kilgore, the A's "seemed to have a great many secrets and bushels of fun. They wore a little black pin with a gold letter upon it... We never knew what the A meant nor its history. It was soon gone" (19, p. 13). It was while discussing the A's that another group of girls at Monmouth College decided to organize I. C. Sorosis.

There almost certainly was talk of I. C. Sorosis—later known by its Greek letters, Pi Beta Phi—which is the oldest secret society for women in continuous existence. It was organized at Monmouth, Illinois, in 1867. Monmouth is only 58 miles from Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

There was much talk about this group when Libbie Brook, with expansion of I. C. Sorosis in mind, enrolled with her sister at Iowa Wesleyan the fall of 1868. But, as might be expected, the founders remained a closely-knit group of seven campus leaders, some of whom refused to become a part of I. C. Sorosis because all of the seven were not invited. Libbie organized five other girls into a chapter of I. C. Sorosis on December 12, 1868.

This created a situation which the seven girls refused to take lightly. True to their heritage and the destiny toward which they moved, they set their creative powers to work and made the only logical response: a society of their own.

PART I

1869-1883

Not By Chance

Not by chance but by will man achieves his destiny. Thus great social movements come to be as man seeks knowledge and a better way of life.

1

Organization

There was nothing about that Thursday morning to mark January 21, 1869, as a memorable day, but the hopes and vague plans which seven college girls carried to the Iowa Wesleyan campus that morning were to culminate, before the day was over, into one of the pioneer societies for women—P.E.O.

Those girls sought only to organize a society in response to their own needs. It was a revolutionary idea and they knew it. They had reason to know that the status of women was changing although they could not have realized the extent to which their response was colored by rapidly changing social conditions.

The seven girls were unusual only in their religious and pioneer heritage and in their educational opportunities. That would have been true of most women students in the Middle West in 1869. To the seven, college had been a unique and joyous experience. They had been taught to think and had become recognized leaders in campus and community activities. Each was well aware of how fortunate she was to be receiving an education.

With the passing of each year their friendship had deepened. It was dear to them and they wanted it to be a lasting thing. That friendship had stood the test when a small chapter of I. C. Sorosis was organized in Mount Pleasant on December 12, 1868. Not all of the seven had been asked to join I.C. and those who were would not join without the others. The logical solution was a society of their own, one which would commemorate their cherished friendship.

So, on January 21, 1869, in the music room of Main Hall, Iowa Wesleyan University, Mary Allen, Alice Bird, Hattie Briggs, Alice Coffin, Suela Pearson, Franc Roads and Ella Stewart organized P.E.O. at Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

The founders repeatedly told the story of this organization and eventually wrote vivid accounts of it. The accounts did not always agree in all details. Franc Roads recognized the reason for this when she wrote the following paragraph:

> In the good book four apostles told of the work of the Master, when he was amongst men, and each because of his peculiar individual temperament and mental point of view, had a slightly different version to give—though in the essentials they were the same. Could all of the seven girls who formed the first P.E.O. Chapter be here today, the story of each, as to the beginning, would vary. What strongly appeals to one might make but a slight impression on another, while in the main points the stories would harmonize (10, Jan. 1950, p. 8).

So long as the founders lived they spoke fondly of their society and of the early years in P.E.O. The pen of Alice Bird recorded a vast amount of P.E.O. lore, stamping all with her own delightful personality and style of writing. An example is her brief, vivid paragraph, stressing the significance of the time of founding:

> If there is any virtue in the founding of P.E.O. it is not on account of the founders, for we were all ordinary girls, but on account of the time of founding. It was the age of vision, reconstruction not only along national lines, but reconstruction of thought, minds, souls. Women's Clubs were demanded, they came just at the right time. It was strange soil for them to grow in, our lives were rigid, our paths were straight. Economy was the order of the day, but like Alpine flowers blooming in the snow, they bloom all the more luxuriantly because of the rigidity of the atmosphere. P.E.O. thrived, we were not bound by criticism or cynicism (10, Nov. 1919, p. 409).

Mary Allen also wrote widely, with great care for accurate details and philosophical interpretation of P.E.O. events. She and Alice Bird were both popular speakers and tireless workers for P.E.O.

Franc Roads often wrote about P.E.O., and, with customary vision, helped to place it in its proper perspective in history, and set significant goals for its future. She was the youngest of the group, but for her, life moved rapidly.

Ella Stewart often responded to requests of Chapter A, and later Grand Chapter, for talks or papers covering the history of P.E.O. Unfortunately, very little of Ella's writing was recorded in print.

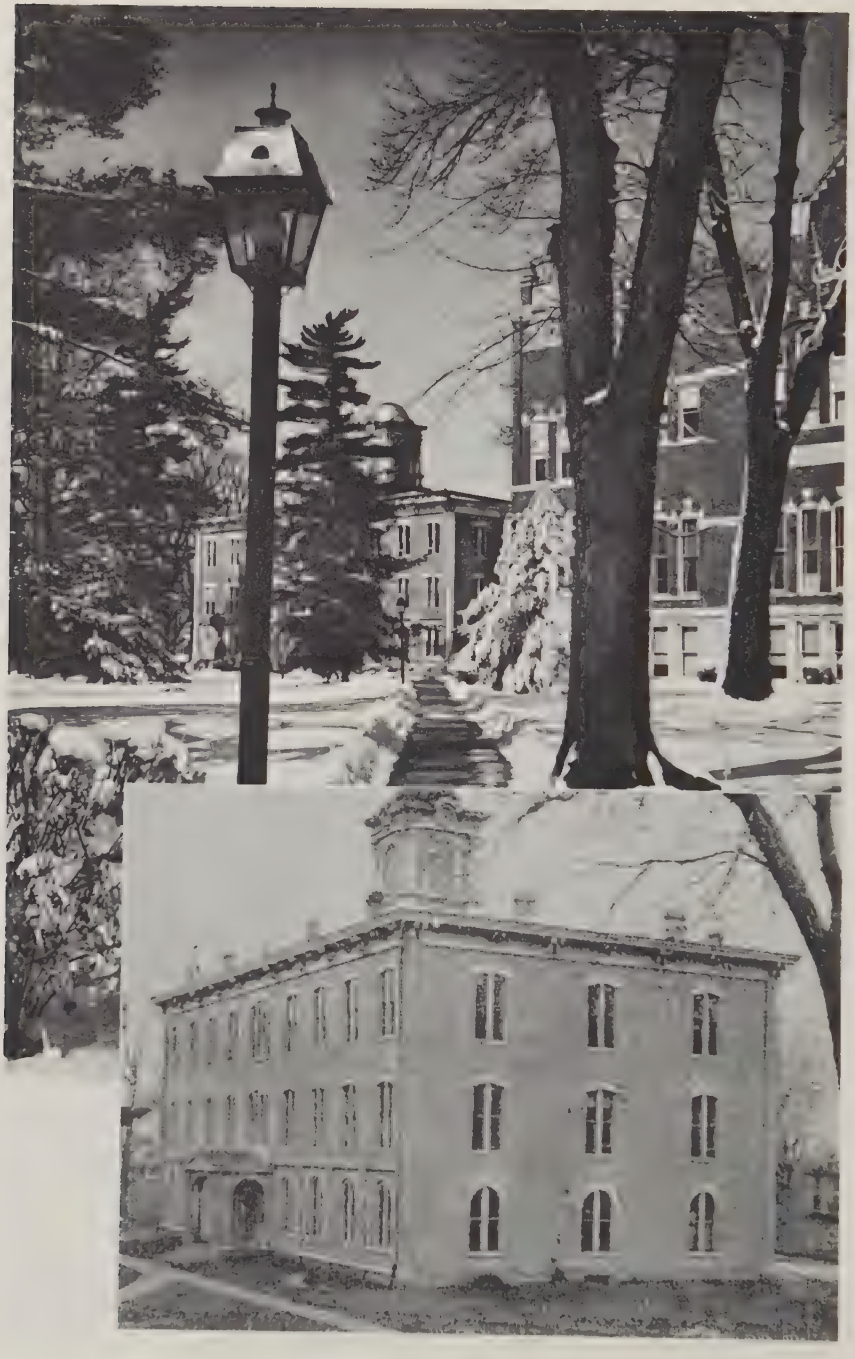
Alice Coffin, who could have written about P.E.O. with great depths of perception, recorded very little, for she died before such historical writing became significantly important to P.E.O.

So far as we know, Hattie Briggs, who wore her beloved "star" only eight years, did not record in print her joyous response to P.E.O. Yet the story of P.E.O. could not be told without quoting her key statement: "Let's have a society of our own."

This statement was not always worded exactly the same as different founders told the story in later years, but one could never mistake the meaning.

Memory Room in Old Main

Another view of Memory Room, a project of Chapter Original A



Old Main, 1960—Old Main, 1860

Suela Pearson remained in college two years after P.E.O. was organized, graduating from Iowa Wesleyan in 1871. She was active in P.E.O. only during those two years. Soon after her commencement she moved East with her parents where no chapters existed. We are fortunate to have a few of her letters written in later years.

Active plans for organization began to emerge that mild January morning as Hattie Briggs and Franc Roads sat together on the stile at the southeast corner of the campus. They were gravely discussing the fraternity system in general, and more specifically, their own responsibility for organizational life on the campus. According to Franc Roads the seven "had always been foremost in any plans which had to do with the social life of the college." Now action seemed to be called for and it came rapidly, as Franc described it years later in the following words:

> Hattie said, "Let us start an order of our own." I was ready to second her suggestion. At once we started to find Mary Allen.... Mary, Hattie and I were intimate friends all through our college course, so much so that we were called the 'triamese' twins. We found Mary and she too thought the idea a good one. We then brought together Alice Coffin, Ella Stewart, Alice Bird...and Suela Pearson, all of whom were enthusiastic over the idea. The closest secrecy was pledged and we proceeded to form plans for organization and an announcement which should be at a psychological moment (15, p. 10).

Finding Mary, and eventually the others, should not have been too difficult since there were only two buildings on the twenty-acre campus in 1869: Pioneer Hall, built soon after the college was chartered February 17, 1842, and Main Hall which was completed and occupied in October, 1855. Whispered conferences must have been held with the addition of each girl to the group. Undoubtedly some of these whisperings took place on the sidewalk. Others may have echoed through the halls of Main or Pioneer.

The girls made hasty plans to organize their society that very day. It is not surprising that they thought of the music room as a place for organization. All had participated in musical events and had, without doubt, attended many meetings there. This room, which is thought to have occupied the northwest quarter of the second floor in 1869, promised a reasonable amount of coveted privacy. The exact time set for the meeting is not known. It may have been after the close of afternoon classes, although it could have taken place during some vacant school hour.

Preparation for the meeting could not have been difficult. The few simple tasks must have been assumed readily and willingly. One of the girls must have arranged for the use of that room. One of them must have carried the old college Bible down to the music room from its customary place. It is not difficult to assume that the Bible was kept on the lectern in the Chapel which was on the third floor of Main Hall. In those days, Scripture was read at the beginning of most general assemblies. Certainly a Methodist college would have opened each chapel program with a worship service. Perhaps another girl kept watch while the Bible was being transported, so that no outsiders would see and ponder this unusual procedure.

Another important task was assigned that morning. The girls recognized the need for some kind of ceremony, a bit of pageantry perhaps, or an oath of allegiance. Certainly it had to be something wherein each could participate. To Alice Bird fell the task of composing something suitable. How she went about it is told in the following quotation from an article she wrote many years later.

> I recall the hour as yesterday when the wording of the oath occurred to me. I sat in a summer house, wintry day though it was, near our 'Crooked Tree' croquet ground. I was so full of great thoughts that the confusion of the children annoyed me, so I wrapped myself in a shawl and went there to compose that oath. We met in the afternoon.....and, as I wrote it, it was suggested that I first take the oath—the one I wrote in the summer house.....Ella Stewart read the oath to me then I to the other six. That was our initiation (10, Jan. 1960, p. 3).

This oath was short—only thirty-five words—and was a simple pledge of secrecy.

Stories written years later by the founders agree that Ella Stewart read the oath first to Alice Bird, then Alice read it in turn to each of the other six. Alice could not recall to whom she read it first but one reference suggests that it was Ella Stewart.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful word pictures we have of that first ceremony is the one by Alice Bird in her treasured letter of April 23, 1913:

> I want to say that in life there are some things, thank God for it, that never grow old or even old-fashioned: ...the seven girls who stood around the old fashioned table, on which lay the old fashioned Bible, the girls wearing the quaint 'after the war' style garments of strong good dress material with wide flowing sleeves, clean white collars with big breast-pins, and perhaps hoop skirts taking up the empty space between us as we stood around the table. There stood Franc Roads looking artistic enough for a painting, and full of the energy which has made a rarely successful career. Alice Coffin like a goddess, stately and dignified. Sue Pearson lovely as a primrose or a wood violet. Mary Allen wholesome and gracious as she is today. Ella Stewart, vivacious, interested in all good works and ready to do them. Hattie Briggs, calm, serene and useful .....Alice Bird with sleeves probably rolled up ready for work. There they stood with the old college Bible on the table, old-fashioned girls, old-fashioned Bible, ready, anxious to subscribe to the old-fashioned principles which dignify our order (10, Jan. 1955, p. 3).

Thus it was that each girl searched her heart and made her vow. That was a dramatic moment: simple, restrained, precious. Yet with that simple ceremony P.E.O. was born.

More than drama and brief pageantry were needed now. Four important decisions were made before the meeting in the music room ended:

1. The society was named P.E.O.
2. The star was chosen for the emblem of the society, having been suggested by Alice Coffin.
3. Alice Bird was designated to prepare a constitution and take it to the next meeting.
4. The next meeting was set for the following Saturday evening, January 23, 1869, at the home of Mary Allen.

2 The Founders

The seven founders of P.E.O. were fortunate in their heritage. Theirs was a pioneer and religious background with highly significant emphasis on education. All of the seven founder families were deeply religious people—not just pious, but people who made practical application of religion in everyday life. They were the kind of people who settled Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and made it a cultural center.

The cultural center became fertile soil for the rapidly changing social structure of the mid-nineteenth century encompassing, as it did, the Feminist Movement which developed hand in hand with education for women.

Small wonder that our founders responded as they did to their heritage and environment. Small wonder that they developed the characteristics necessary to bring about greater change. They were charmed by the idea of P.E.O. and by the magic of working together for the advancement of women. These were new concepts in a century just awakening to the tremendous possibilities involved in educating females.

As a haunting bit of melody sometimes runs through a musical composition, so the Christian ethic touches P.E.O. in every phase of its endeavor. Within that Christian ethic P.E.O.'s found the dynamic purpose of living for others.

Each founder brought some rare gift to P.E.O. Those abilities, gifts or attributes have been mentioned in many ways by many writers. They might be summarized as follows: From Mary Allen P.E.O. gets its poise; from Alice Bird, its literary bent; from Hattie Briggs, its home making tendencies; from Alice Coffin, its interest in education; from Suela Pearson, gaiety and charming sociability; from Franc Roads, its vision and progressiveness; and from Ella Stewart, its desire for social service.

Mary Allen

Mary Allen was a beautiful young woman: tall, slender, graceful, poised with an innate dignity of bearing. She was born in Mount Pleasant, December 30, 1848, the daughter of Reuben and Evelyn Caulk Allen. Mr. Allen was a business man. Among other pursuits he dealt in real estate, and it is said that his name appears on many property abstracts in that section of Iowa. We know very little about Mrs. Allen, but she must have been one of those rare women who was always poised, conveniently available to members of her family, and ready and eager to welcome their friends. So much of early P.E.O. happened in the Allen home.

Mary attended the Preparatory Department or Academy at Iowa Wesleyan University, Mount Pleasant, then entered the university as a freshman the fall of 1865. Dillon H. Payne, a classmate, said of her:

> Mary had good taste in dress and made smart clothes look better, was graceful, cheerful and popular with the boys. She entertained nicely in her home and stood well in her classes. She chose the classical course. In those days the hurry to get married did not keep the girls from the classics....Mary was a leader at the "Sidereal Soiree" and relished our country dance substitute, "Weevilly Wheat." She was born, bred and destined to wear the Star and be a Founder (10, Aug. 1925, p. 25).

Mary Jane Allen received an A.B. degree from Iowa Wesleyan in June, 1869. She was granted an honorary A.M. degree by her alma mater in 1872, a customary procedure at Iowa Wesleyan, providing graduates had been successful in their chosen field of endeavor the three years following graduation.

On July 4, 1871, she was married to Charles Lewis Stafford who graduated, A.B., from Iowa Wesleyan in June and was ordained to the Methodist ministry. For fifty-six wonderful, useful years they shared that ministry.

Mr. Stafford earned his A.M. degree from Iowa Wesleyan in 1874 and his D.D. from Upper Iowa University in 1888. In 1905 Iowa Wesleyan honored him with an LL.D. He won most of the honors that his church and college could give, and in each area of service he received the gracious help and inspira-

Mary Allen, 1869

tion of his beloved Mary. It is difficult to think of one without the other. Both particularly enjoyed the years that Dr. Stafford served as president of Iowa Wesleyan University, 1891-1899. The university moved forward during those years, both in the academic field and in the building program. According to the Iowa Conference Advocate, October 25, 1925, "these accomplishments assured Wesleyan's future."

Although the life of a pioneer Methodist minister during the late nineteenth century was not an easy one, both Mary and the Reverend Mr. Stafford accepted the many necessary moves and other inconveniences without complaint. It was all part of their service to the ministry. Mary was a wonderful homemaker and possessed a delightful sense of humor. Their home was a place where friends liked to be, a home with love, and laughter, and understanding.

Allen Home, 1869

Into their home were born four children: Clarence Allen, who attended Iowa Wesleyan and became a successful business man and rancher; Eva May, the lovely little girl with brown eyes and golden curls, who died of scarlet fever at the age of four; Charles Ralph, who graduated from Iowa Wesleyan in 1900, from the University of Chicago Law School, cum laude, in 1911, and later maintained his own law practice in Muscatine, Iowa; and William Reuben, who died at Duluth, Minnesota in 1913, just a year after graduation from the University of Wisconsin (20, pp. 2 and 39 and 10, Aug., 1927, p. 1).

Mary Allen, later

Charles Ralph and his wife Lucille Norvis Stafford had no children. Clarence Allen and his wife, Mary DeLescaille Stafford, had two sons, Charles Joseph and William Reuben. Charles, who married Elizabeth Brown, lives in LaJolla, California. Their daughter, Ann Elizabeth, is a graduate of the University of California at Davis. Their son, James Ralph, is now (1967) a student at San Diego Junior College.

William Reuben, who married Katherine Leach, lives in Davenport, Iowa, where Katherine is a member of Chapter EM, P.E.O. Their son, Hugh Allen, will be graduated next month (June, 1967) from Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant. The daughter, Mary Catherine, is a student of Central High School in Davenport.

The Staffords lived in at least ten different towns in Iowa from 1871 when they were married to 1917 when Dr. Stafford retired and they moved to Muscatine. During many of those years they lived in towns where no P.E.O. chapters existed, but Mary maintained her interest in P.E.O. and was an active participant wherever possible. She kept her membership in Chapter A until 1905 when she transferred to Chapter B, Bloomfield, Iowa, then to Chapter X, Oskaloosa; AH, West Liberty; and FC, Muscatine.

Mary was a beloved member of each of those chapters. Her wise and kindly interpretations of P.E.O. laws and activities helped to create the image of P.E.O. for those who came later. She often stressed the importance of proper procedure in conducting business meetings and the necessity for good order. At one time she stated, “We are but undisciplined if we cannot endure the quiet restraint of listening.”

Practical Christianity was a natural way of life for Mary. Her life was totally centered in other people. She treasured her friends. A close relationship existed between Mary and her daughters-in-law. She was adored by family and friends, and respected by all who knew her, an enviable life, indeed.

This lovely lady died July 10, 1927, at her home in Muscatine, Iowa. She is buried in Forest Home Cemetery at Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Alice Bird

Literary pursuits were clearly defined in the person of Alice Bird. She was a brilliant student: an intellectual. She possessed a tremendous knowledge of literature as well as the ability to create or declaim it, as the need might be. She was destined to become a speaker and a writer of note, one of the literati.

Alice felt a kinship with the literary characters whom she often dramatized and quoted freely. She must have had the power of total recall for if something reminded her of a character, she might, without prearrangement, delight her listeners by quoting long passages from the classics, usually identifying the characters and placing them in their proper setting.

Alice was born in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, May 8, 1850. She was the daughter of Dr. Wellington and Sarah Thornton Bird. Dr. Bird, a pioneer from Pennsylvania, was the first physician in Henry County, Iowa. Mrs. Bird also came from the East but by way of Indiana. She was a courageous, educated, cheerful, busy little person interested in everything and everyone about her. The Bird family figured notably in the early history of Mount Pleasant and Iowa Wesleyan University.

Alice Bird, 1869

Alice, or Allie as she often was called, attended high school at Howe's Academy. She entered Iowa Wesleyan University as a freshman in the fall of 1865, at the age of 15. Dillon Payne wrote of her:

> Fresh from the Academy she bolted into our class. She was a town girl ...medium height, black hair thrown back, dark piercing eyes, tailor made clothes, taking long and bold strides as she passed through the college campus. ...Allie immediately took rank and had to be reckoned with. Nothing short of the classical course would do. The time to complete it did not figure. ...Virgil, Cicero and Socrates were not to be slighted. She was a forceful reader and singer, a member of the College Quartette and in demand on all the down-town and college literary programs. How well do I remember when she declaimed "The Maniac"... and in "Hiawatha" portrayed the terrors of "The Famine and the Fever." ...When any bold or daring adventure was incubating, Allie was there in the midst. She was not a man worshipper, met the boys like brothers and generous in her attention to all. She was an expert in Latin and Greek. ...It was foreordained that she should be a founder of P.E.O. (10, Aug. 1925, p. 25).

Mary Alice Bird was graduated from Iowa Wesleyan in June, 1869, with an A.B. degree and in 1872 was granted the honorary A.M. degree. Following graduation she taught for a time at the academy, or high school, as it was often called. Then in 1872 Alice was invited to fill the chair of Latin and Greek at Iowa Wesleyan University. Her appointment covered the years from 1872 to 1876. She taught Latin, Greek and elocution. Her father, Dr. Wellington Bird, and Mr. W. I. Babb, to whom Alice was married on October 9, 1873, were also members of the faculty. Dr. Bird taught pharmacy and Mr. Babb, law (1, p. 103).

Washington Irving Babb entered the P.E.O. picture when he returned to his home in Mount Pleasant as a veteran of the Civil War, and entered Iowa Wesleyan in 1865 to continue his education. Later he was often mentioned as an escort of Alice Bird. He was graduated with an A.B. degree in 1866, received the honorary A.M. degree in 1869 and an LL.D. in 1898. He also received an LL.D. from the State University of Iowa in 1907. He practiced law in Mount Pleasant for many years—for a time with his son Max—and was district judge of the second judicial district of Iowa from 1891 to 1895. He was a trustee of Iowa Wesleyan from 1874 until his death, September 4, 1925. In 1906 the family moved to Aurora, Illinois, where Mr. Babb became legal advisor and later president of the Western Wheel Scraper Company, and where he had other manufacturing and banking interests.

Alice took great pride in her family and in her home. Her son Miles remembered the utter devotion of his mother to her husband and children. Their home was one of culture, and comfort, and deep down happiness: a place where friends were always welcomed and cherished; where students might come for help, or just come; where the children were always free to bring their friends—the more the merrier; and where love and concern for others were taken for granted. Theirs was a Christian home in the best Methodist tradition.

The Babbs were the parents of four children: Max Wellington, a Wesleyan graduate who became a successful lawyer, then an executive, and eventually the president, of the Allis Chalmers Company in Milwaukee; Miles Thornton, also a graduate of Iowa Wesleyan, who for many years was manager of the Western Wheel Scraper Company, and later was district sales manager of the Allis Chalmers Company, and who served as a trustee of Iowa Wesleyan from 1939 to his death in 1967, the latter years as an honorary trustee; Clarabelle, the adored little girl who died of diphtheria in 1890 at the age of seven; and Alice, a graduate of Northwestern University, intelligent, scholarly, interested in civic and world affairs, of whom Mrs. Reeves said, "She is a widely read person, interesting to know."

Bird Home, 1869

Alice Babb Ewing is the only living child of any of the founders (March, 1968). Alice was married to Donald Knox Ewing in 1918.

They live in Aurora, Illinois. Miles and his wife, Lottie Allen Babb, lived in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, for several years, following his retirement, and early in 1966 moved to Centerville, Iowa, to be near Lottie's niece, Mrs. Robert Beck of Chapter D. Miles died in Centerville, December 16, 1967.

Max Wellington Babb died in 1943. He and his wife, Vida Kemble Babb, had three children: Winifred, Mrs. Phil Nolte of Lac de Flambeau, Wisconsin, who has one son and one daughter; Irving Thornton Babb, a lawyer in Milwaukee whose family includes three daughters and one son; and Max W. Babb, with the Allis Chalmers Company, who has one daughter and two sons.

Alice Bird, later

Alice Bird Babb was an enthusiastic participant in P.E.O. from its organization until the end of her life. With her ready pen and her fine sense of phraseology, she made a tremendous contribution to Grand Chapter, notably in the preparation of resolutions, laws and ceremonies. Her accustomed presence at meetings and her good judgment helped to direct Grand Chapter during its formative years. She was a superb letter writer. She was associate editor of The P.E.O. Record during the first three or four years of its existence, often writing under the pen name of Avis. She cherished the jeweled pin presented to her in 1902 at the time of Chapter A's 33rd anniversary, and wore it and Ella Stewart's original pin at 50th anniversary functions she was able to attend. Alice Bird was a gifted and life-long student, quick to share her many talents with those she knew and loved.

Alice died at her home in Aurora, Illinois, November 21, 1926, and was buried in Forest Home Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Hattie Briggs

Hattie Briggs possessed the rare quality of making everyone near her feel comfortable. She joyously accepted the world about her with little thought of personal gain, always receptive to the needs of others. She was naturally a leader in church affairs and campus activities. Everyone knew her and students instinctively loved and looked up to her. She was above average size, had light brown hair, a fair complexion, and large expressive blue eyes, but she is remembered best for her radiant smile. She was bright and cheerful and thoroughly democratic, the daughter of the Reverend Elias Lyman and Jane Johnson Briggs.

The Briggs home at the northwest corner of the campus attracted a stream of young people; and members of the Briggs family were important elements in the life of the town and university. Mr. Briggs was a trustee of Iowa Wesleyan for fifteen years and a member of the executive committee from 1866 to 1870.

Hattie was born in the little town of Troy, Iowa, October 10, 1849. After the family moved to Mount Pleasant in the early sixties, Hattie attended the Preparatory Department of Iowa Wesleyan, then entered the university as a freshman in September, 1865. Dillon Payne, a classmate and campus leader, said of her:

Hattie Briggs, 1869

> The best hearted girl that ever lived. None knew her but to love her. ...Her father was a minister and her family lived near the college. The front door had oiled hinges and opened readily to her college chums. Hattie...chose the scientific course. She was modest and retiring. ...Her shoulder was a normal place for the five pointed gold emblem. Five words [Faith, Love, Purity, Justice and Truth] were innate with her (10, Aug. 1925, p. 25).

Harriet (Hattie) Briggs, a member of the class known as The Lifebloods, received her B.S. degree from Iowa Wesleyan in June, 1869. Three years later she received an honorary M.S. degree.

After graduation Hattie taught music and art and lived with her parents, first in Ottumwa, Iowa, later in Knoxville, Iowa, where the Reverend Mr. Briggs had accepted Methodist pastorates. On January 12, 1873 Mr. Briggs preached his regular Sunday sermon, but his congregation was larger than usual that day. There was also a noticeable air of expectancy, if not excitement, among some members of the congregation and a few of the visitors present.

At the close of the service Hattie J. Briggs and Henri L. Bousquet, met at the altar where Hattie's father united them in marriage, a complete surprise to most of the congregation. Soon after the ceremony Mr. Bousquet and his bride, accompanied by a large group of friends from Pella, Iowa, left Knoxville for Pella, where the Bousquets were to make their home. Mr. Bousquet then a business man of Pella soon became assistant cashier of the Pella National Bank.

Two sons were born to this couple: Cutts Duddock and Henri Lyman, two years younger than Cutts. The beloved Hattie, who was perfectly cast in the role of wife and mother, enjoyed that role less than five years. She died June 22, 1877, at Pella, Iowa, and is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery at Pella. Henri Lyman died November 14, 1881, shortly before his sixth birthday.

Briggs Home, 1869

Hattie's husband, Henri L. Bousquet, was a native of Amsterdam, Holland. He came to Pella with his parents when he was nine years old. He attended school there, including Central College. He worked at the printing business for two or three years, then had three years of military service during the Civil War. After returning to Pella, he was elected county clerk, later managed a mill, then became the assistant cashier of the bank. In 1884 he moved to Knoxville, Iowa, where he entered the merchandising business, and later became clerk of the Supreme Court of Iowa.

Cutts Duddock attended Iowa Wesleyan for a time, then enlisted in the Spanish-American War and remained in the regular army for many years. Although his home was in Knoxville, where he was reared, he died in the Veteran's Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, July 10, 1957.

Hattie Briggs, later

Cutts had married Hattie Clara Degenaar, September 11, 1916, using the same ring that Henri Bousquet had placed on the finger of Hattie Briggs in 1873. Cutts and his wife had one daughter, Geraldine Bousquet Durham, Mrs. Kenneth L., who inherited the Hattie Briggs wedding ring and was wearing it when she was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter M, Knoxville, Iowa. Geraldine and two of her daughters, Kathy Lee Durham and Karon Rae Dykstra, visited the P.E.O. executive office in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1962 and gave the wedding ring and other items to P.E.O. A third daughter is Kae Lynn Caston.

Alice Coffin

Alice Coffin entered the P.E.O. drama in the 1860's when her father, Matthew Starbuck Coffin, moved his four children to Mount Pleasant, Iowa, to finish their education at Iowa Wesleyan University.

What a stir Alice's appearance in Mount Pleasant must have made. Even at seventeen, when she entered college, she was tall, blonde, handsome, and carried herself with a certain air of distinction. She was also delightful company, though sometimes meditative, thoughtful, almost aloof. For the most part, she was cheerful, kind, and generous to a fault, but sometimes quick to anger and quick to forgive. Such paradoxes are not uncommon in one with her complex but thoroughly attractive personality.

Alice Coffin, 1869

Alice came from a family deeply conscious of its ancestry. Tristram Coffin, Alice's immigrant ancestor, was one of ten men who bought Nantucket Island in 1660 and established a settlement there. Tristram was the first governor of the island. His daughter, Mary Coffin Starbuck, formed the Society of Friends on the Island and became a Quaker preacher.

Quakers were plentiful through the Coffin line of descent. A group of them left Nantucket when the Island became crowded, tarried for some years in North Carolina then, because slavery was becoming unbearable to them, again divided, with one section settling near Salem, Indiana, about 1815.

It was there in 1841 that Matthew Starbuck Coffin, the sixth generation after Tristram, met and married Martha Thompson, an educated and accomplished young woman of literary promise. She was the daughter of Judge John Handley Thompson who was a lawyer, judge and political leader in Indiana. They spent the first years of their marriage in New Orleans where Mr. Coffin engaged in merchandising. Eventually he became part owner of a steamship that plied the Mississippi. One child, Mary Frances, was born in New Orleans.

Mrs. Coffin's health was not good in that climate so they moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where Martha, Mrs. Coffin, had attended school. There on March 29, 1848, Alice Virginia was born. By birth, Alice was a Southern girl, although she lived in the South only the first year of her life.

Several moves followed. The first, in 1849, was to the old Coffin farm near Salem, Indiana, where two sons, Charles and Matthew, Jr., were born. Then, in 1855, the family moved to Newton, Iowa, a small promising frontier town, which proved to be an unfortunate location for them. Mr. Coffin suffered serious financial loss in the mercantile business, followed July 30, 1857, by the death of Mrs. Coffin. Alice Virginia, who was then nine years old, was deeply affected by the loss of her mother. It left a permanent note of sadness in her life. For six years or so the family continued to live in Newton where the children attended school, and became self-reliant, capable young people.

Those were Civil War times. Mr. Coffin accepted the position of supervising transportation of troops and supplies on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Later he moved his family to Mount Pleasant, Iowa, where they might be assured of a good education in high school and at Iowa Wesleyan University.

So it was that Alice Virginia Coffin entered the university as a freshman in September, 1865. Many years later, Dillon H. Payne, a classmate through four years of college life, wrote of Alice:

> Did you notice that tall willowy blonde enter chapel that morning with the gold star and apron? She combined all the qualities of a stunning personality. In the drawing room she would be a queen; in the ball room, the first lady. Her name was always on the list of our Beta banquets. Perhaps the most striking couple in our public festivities was Alice Coffin, and Will Pearson, brother of Sue. They were tall, courtly, handsome and up-to-date dressers. Will had black hair and blue eyes;...Alice was a typical blonde, with elegant grace and costume in the latest style. The law of mutual attraction or human gravitation drew them together and the boys expected Will to select her as his partner....She could lay aside her dignity and become a hilarious romp, which she often did. She was said to be an elegant dancer, but a Methodist college gave her no chance to shine in the ball room. ...She naturally became one of the Seven. Her statue fills a niche in P.E.O. temple (10, Aug. 1925, p. 25).

As suggested above, romance did blossom for Alice during her college years. Source material carries numerous references to Alice and Will Pearson. Eventually an engagement became a reality. Alice was not one to give her affections lightly. Plans for a home and family of her own must have touched the very depths of her being. However, fate is not always kind to couples in love and when, in a difficult moment, she chose to break the engagement, her dreams were shattered, too. There were other offers of marriage, but Alice did not accept them.

Alice Coffin graduated from Iowa Wesleyan in June, 1869, receiving her B.S. degree. Three years later she was granted the honorary M.S. degree from Iowa Wesleyan. It was Alice's intent to devote her life to the teaching profession. She taught for a short time at Des Moines, then for several years at Chariton, Iowa, before going to Newton, Iowa, where she taught until the last year of her life.

Her sister, Mary Frances, five years older than Alice, had married Mr. Vernon W. Skiff while Alice was still in college, and they had gone back to Newton to make their home. Alice and Mary Frances had always enjoyed close sisterly relations so it must have been a joy for both of them to again make their home in Newton where they had lived for some years, and received their early education. The small daughters of Mrs. Skiff, Blanche and Stella, were especially happy to have "Aunt Alice" near. Mr. Coffin lived in the Skiff home then. Alice lived nearby.

Alice had been a Methodist, as her mother was before her, but while living and teaching in Chariton, she changed to the Episcopal church. Her reasons were twofold: She was receptive to the rituals and ceremonies of the Episcopal church, and she was fond of dancing which at that time was frowned on by the Methodist church.

Alice Coffin, later

Alice was a devoted, imaginative teacher, deeply conscious of the needs of her students. Each child she taught was a challenge to her and she spared neither time nor effort in imparting knowledge. To her the total child was important: his scholastic ability, his physical and emotional needs, his approach to learning. Teaching was a rewarding experience to Alice as well as to her students. Her own high ethical standards must have lifted many young people to higher levels. She lent encouragement to her students, for she was a perceptive person. She helped some financially.

It is easy to imagine that children must have loved to watch her. With her golden hair, the golden star that she usually wore, her fine posture, her attractive clothes—she was an excellent seamstress—and her sparkling personality, she was a teacher one remembers. One student wrote of her, "She was the kind of teacher that the girls copy and the boys silently worship."

Alice died July 28, 1888, in the home of her sister at Newton, Iowa. In accord with her request, she was buried in Union Cemetery at Newton, just as the sun was setting.

Although Alice Coffin had no family of her own, five nieces and one nephew cherished her memory.

Children of Vernon W. and Mary Frances Coffin Skiff: Blanche Skiff Ross, Mrs. Frank P.; Stella Skiff Jannotta, Mrs. A. A.; and Frank Vernon Skiff.

Children of Charles T. and Lillie B. Coffin: Frances Coffin Boaz, Mrs. Tucker; Alice Virginia Coffin Foote, Mrs. H. B.; and Lucille Coffin Donaldson, Mrs. Russell.

Franc Roads

Franc Roads became known as the girl with the far vision, so progressive that she was years ahead of her time.

She was a beautiful young woman with a vivid personality. Mary Allen spoke of her as "not tall, but well proportioned with dark hair, and eyes that fairly danced with the fullness of life and merriment." It was her delight to offer suggestions and propose changes, then to be happy whether or not her suggestions were accepted. Her rare ability to go straight to the heart of a problem; to analyze situations and offer solutions; and her crusading spirit made her a coveted member of any group.

Franc was the youngest founder. She was born February 10, 1852, at Marshall, Iowa, a little town almost at the edge of Mount Pleasant. Christened Frances Elizabeth Roads, she permitted only the use of Franc Roads, Franc E. Roads, Franc Roads Elliott, or Franc R. Elliott throughout her mature years. Her father, Addison Roads, was a business man and later a public official in Mount Pleasant. Her mother, Nancy McClure Roads, firmly supported the idea of P.E.O. and lent a helping hand whenever she could. It was she who designed and helped the girls make the aprons for the march into chapel that introduced P.E.O. to the world.

Franc attended Howe's Academy then enrolled in the scientific course at Iowa Wesleyan University in September, 1866, at the age of 14. She soon learned that it was possible for her to graduate in three years, and she did. So eager was she to be about the serious business of living, that she seemed always to be giving life a little nudge.

Dillon Payne, a fellow student said of her:

> Franc Roads...is fresh in memory. Another of the Seven nurtured in the academy. ...There was dignity and poise in her manner, stocky form, neatly dressed, broad forehead, kindly eyes and shocky head of hair. She took her place in our class as a substantial member. She was the gyroscope when our class ship was being tossed by the billows. She never rocked the boat. When the old college bell rang the class hour, Franc

> was there. No tardy marks blurred the page. She was rather quiet, not a tomboy. Her face was serious and thoughtful but pleasant and engaging. She took life seriously and not as joyously as might be expected of one with such artistic temperament and talent as she later demonstrated. However we were all too young to be looking for the budding of genius. Work and play, all absorbing at the time, filled our entire horizon. Her character was needed in the building of the new temple of P.E.O. ...She became a devotee of art in the early years and acquired fame in her chosen field (10, Aug. 1925, p. 25).

Franc E. Roads received a B. S. degree from Iowa Wesleyan University June 16, 1869, and was granted the honorary M.S. degree in June, 1872. College had given Franc an excellent general knowledge. It also made her aware of the whole field of art: its development, its opportunities, its great potentials. Those things caught her interest and shaped the rest of her life. Franc and Alice Bird both taught at the high school in Mount Pleasant after graduation.

Simon Elliott was mentioned often as an escort of Franc Roads, both during college years and the three years that followed. Simon is not recorded as a graduate of Iowa Wesleyan, but he may have been a student there some time during the years that his father, Dr. Charles Elliott, was president of Iowa Wesleyan, 1857-61 and 1864-66.

Franc Roads, 1869

Franc E. Roads and Simon Charles Elliott were married June 6, 1872, and made their home in Lincoln, Nebraska. Eventually, they built a gabled cottage on 14th Street just south of M, where they lived for many years. Mr. Elliott operated a china store in Lincoln, a Queen's Ware Store, as it was called. Franc mastered the art of china painting along with her other art interests. Undoubtedly, some of her work found its way into the china store.

Two children were born to Simon and Franc Elliott: Charles Addison, a graduate of the University of Nebraska and the Northwestern University School of Medicine, with graduate work in Vienna, who became a distinguished diagnostician in Chicago and a professor of medicine at Northwestern; and Stella May, educated at the University of Nebraska, assistant in the department of physical education there for several years, then head of the department of physical education for women at Ohio State University.

In 1911 Dr. Charles Addison Elliott married Genevieve Cole, then of Chicago but previously from Mount Pleasant, Iowa. P.E.O. was included in Genevieve's family background. The Elliotts had three children: Frank Roads Elliott, M.D.; Margaret C. Elliott, M.D.; and Ernest Charles Elliott, a business man.

Stella Elliott married James A. Canfield, son of Dr. James H. Canfield who had been chancellor of both Nebraska and Ohio State Universities. The Elliott and Canfield families had been close friends when Dr. Canfield was chancellor at Nebraska University. Stella and James Canfield spent most of their married life in New York where Mr. Canfield founded and served for many years as president of the Canfield Paper Company. They had two sons, Charles E. Canfield and Robert E. Canfield. Dorothy Canfield Fisher, author and critic, was a sister of James A. Canfield.

Franc Roads Elliott was an intellectual, an inveterate reader of classic as well as contemporary literature. Through most of her life she practiced art as a profession, often conducting private classes in painting and drawing. She studied whenever and wherever she could: a winter at the Rookwood Potteries in Cincinnati, a summer in Europe. She was associated with the art department at the University of Nebraska and later studied at the Chicago Art Institute and the University of Chicago. There were also special courses at Columbia and Leland Stanford Universities.

Roads Home, 1869

When the Elliotts were faced with financial disaster, due to the panic of 1893, Franc set out bravely, under appalling difficulties, to earn what she could in order to keep their son in medical school. Art supervision in public schools was a new and promising profession which Franc decided to enter. She was highly successful at Aurora, Illinois, and Salt Lake City, Utah, even creating a model school room at Aurora that attracted wide attention.

Stella Elliott said that she saw very little of her mother, during those busy, demanding years, but with that fight won, Franc and Simon moved to Chicago where Franc presided with poise and charm over her son's household until his marriage in 1911. Franc continued to make her home in Chicago after Mr. Elliott's death there, May 9,

1915. However she never gave up her intense interest in art and in educational and civic advancement. She lectured extensively during the later years of her life. She attended and often spoke at P.E.O. conventions. Through talks and written articles she helped to set goals for the future of P.E.O., for hers was always a forward outlook. She was tremendously interested in the P.E.O. Educational Fund for young women. Her P.E.O. membership remained in Chapter A at Mount Pleasant as long as she lived.

Changing social conditions and the advancement of women were life-long challenges to Franc. She had strong personal convictions in these areas and a willingness to do something about them, for hers was a crusading spirit. She counted as her friends Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Frances Willard, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and many others interested in the Feminist Movement.

In 1884 Mrs. Elliott represented Nebraska as assistant commissioner of art at the New Orleans Exposition, the first time that women were named as commissioners at any exposition. She also worked for eighteen years to secure for women the right to a seat and a vote in the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At first she was alone in her contention, but one after another, influential leaders came to her viewpoint until this mission was finally accomplished. Stella Elliott termed this a "vastly exciting time for us children."

Franc Roads, later

There were many facets to Franc's character, to her interests and her abilities. She adored her family, especially "riding herd on her rowdy grandchildren," as Stella described it, "a source of education and inspiration to them all." Yet, equally appropriate is Winona Reeves' descriptive sentence: "She was alive to every issue of the day and studied men and events with the zeal of a statesman" (10, Sept. 1924, p. 1).

Stella described her mother as "a dynamic person, always on the search for learning, a woman of indomitable will, with courage and ability to get from life the worthwhile things that appealed to her" (16, Canfield letter, May 2, 1941).

Franc Roads Elliott died at the home of her son in Chicago, August 9, 1924. Her body was cremated. On Sunday, September 28, 1952, P.E.O. dedicated a marker for her, placed on the Elliott lot in Forest Home Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Suela Pearson

Suela Pearson could scarcely have had more feminine graces, charms, talents and virtues if a fairy godmother had waved her magic wand and wished them upon her.

She was a story-book child with her beauty, her intelligence, and her goodness, perhaps the sort of little girl that most parents dream of having. She was meant to be adored, and adored she certainly was by family and by friends. But none of those things spoiled her.

She grew into a charming and gay but gracious and affectionate young woman. The other founders took pride and pleasure in telling that Suela was the most beautiful and popular of the seven.

Marie Suela Pearson was born in Cleveland, Ohio, August 24, 1851, daughter of Dr. Clement and Marie Rose McKinley Pearson. Dr. Pearson was one of the successful early practitioners of the homeopathic school of medicine. He was founder of the Hannemann Medical Society and was its president for many years. Mrs. Pearson was a beautiful, cultured woman with an excellent family background. One distinguished relative was United States President William McKinley.

Suela Pearson, 1869

About 1860 when Suela and her brother Will were still in grade school, the Pearsons decided to try life in frontier Iowa and moved to Mount Pleasant. Here their beautiful new home, enhanced by Mrs. Pearson's flower gardens, soon became a show place as well as a social center.

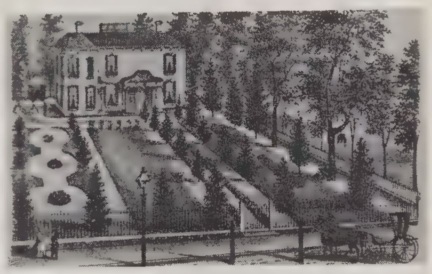
Suela finished grade school and the academy at Iowa Wesleyan then entered the university as a freshman the fall of 1866, just after her 15th birthday. Dillon Payne told of her conquest of the campus as follows:

> This star was the planet with a ring (of boys) around it, but not so far off. Her father was a doctor, the mother most hospitable and interested in the college young folks, the brother a beau brummell, and she herself a peach. At sometime she was the sweetheart of each of us, we all looked alike to her. When it was about time for Sue's gentleman caller to say good-night, the mother would appear in the parlor with a tray of cake and ice cream or some other tidbits, take part in the conversation and

> remain for the good-night ceremonies. But Sue did not need watching, nor assistance, was not silly, but charming. She had talent, could sing, and was a rival of Allie Bird as a reader. Her songs were rather sentimental, such as "Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still," or "Leaf by Leaf the Roses Fall, Drop by Drop the Spring Runs Dry." She was an attraction, a magnet. She had...more beaus in the list at the same time than all of the other founders. The heart throbs were all in the male breast. She was absolutely impartial. ...Can you imagine the girls leaving her out of the Original Seven? If they had the Betas would have initiated her. The horoscope told her to wait for larger game, and she did. Another thing in her praise was that none of the other girls was ever jealous of her. Her light shown on all, and no one wanted it put under a bushel (10, Aug. 1925, p. 26).

Suela enrolled in the comprehensive classical course using an extra year to complete it. She became an excellent musician and was adept at dramatics—elocution as it was taught in those days. She carried her share of religious and other activities, and during her sophomore year helped to found the society of P.E.O. Through every endeavor she maintained her delightful spirit of gaiety. Butterfly though she may have been, she was an educated one with the best training that the Midwest had to offer.

Suela Pearson received her A.B. degree from Iowa Wesleyan University in June, 1871, and the honorary A.M. degree three years later. Soon after her graduation the Pearson family moved to Washington, D. C., where Suela might have more educational and social advantages. Some time was spent in New York, but Washington remained the Pearson home until Dr. Pearson's death, January 29, 1888.



Pearson Home, 1869

In 1876 Suela married Frank Harold Penfield of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Penfield was of English ancestory and Mayflower descent. He was associated with the Standard Oil Company.

It was some years after Suela's marriage, perhaps in 1890, that she was contacted by her old friend and classmate, Ella Killpatrick Dinwiddie, wife of Major William A. Dinwiddie, then commandant of the Iowa Wesleyan University Cadet Corps. Mrs. Dinwiddie desired Suela to send something, such as a banner, that might be presented to the best drilled cadet corps of the year. Suela responded with a gold badge an inch or inch and a half wide and three inches long. It was designed especially for the cadet corps. At the top were the stylized letters "P.E.O." set with small precious stones. In the middle section of the badge was a gold star with a large white diamond in the center. Below the diamond were cross arms on a shield and the letters "I.W.U." and "C.C."

Suela had chosen her own way to express her appreciation for Iowa Wesleyan University. So long as the cadet corps remained on the campus, the badge was worn by the first sergeant of the winning company at the exhibition drill held during commencement week. The badge, on loan from the college is now (1968) on display in the P.E.O. Memorial Rooms in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

For many years after their marriage the Penfields lived on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland near the Rockefeller home. The years must have been rewarding for them in a beautiful home, with children, business stability, and a high place in Cleveland society. It was exactly the type of life that Suela had been trained to lead. Her rare beauty, the charm of her personality, her many talents and social graces made her a lovable person and a famed hostess.

Two children were born to Suela and Frank Penfield: Marie Rose, educated by private tutors and finishing schools in Cleveland and Boston, was a charter member of Chapter AH at Cleveland, Ohio, from January 15, 1938, until her death March 3, 1962; and Frank Pearson Penfield, who died following surgery, October 23, 1901, while a student at Yale University.

Rose, born as she was into two distinguished colonial families, enjoyed membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United States Daughters of 1812, Daughters of the American Colonists, the Cleveland Colony of New England Women, and the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Suela Pearson, later

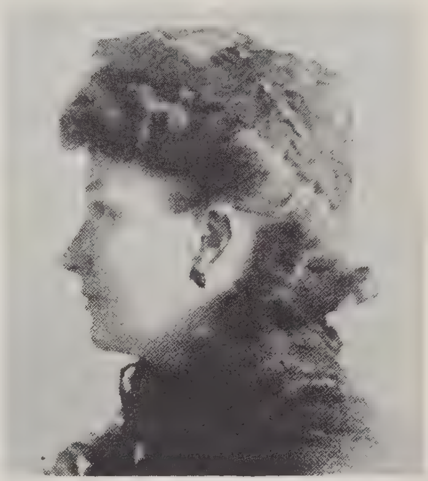
But this is Suela's story. When trouble came into her life, as it did, Suela responded like a thoroughbred. She measured up magnificently to the heartbreaking tasks that were required of her. By death, she lost her father, her brother Will, and her son Frank. There were financial reverses, and family complications. Her mother became an invalid, and for many years Suela and her daughter Rose lavished devoted care upon her in their family home, where Mrs. Pearson resided until her death in 1917.

The glow and shine had gone from Suela's bright world. After a long illness, attended much of the time by her daughter Rose, she died September 20, 1920 and is buried in Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio.

Ella Stewart

Ella Stewart's life was one of devoted service to others. She loved people, all people, and readily identified herself with every person she met. Her natural intuition and training made her unusually perceptive to their needs. But Ella was more than that. She was a doer, quick to respond to the needs about her and capable of enlisting help when needed. She filled her role to perfection.

Ella was of Irish descent and few could match her keen wit and quick repartee. She was a disciplined person, bright and cheerful, industrious, considerate and courageous, a thoroughly delightful person to know. As a rule, biographers of Ella Stewart are so enamoured by her loveliness and her humanity that they fail to mention her beauty, but she was beautiful. She was small in stature with curly auburn hair and deep blue eyes, an attractive person at all times. She almost invariably wore earrings, and Alice Bird spoke of "the scent of violets that often followed in her wake." She was one who touched the heartstrings of everyone with whom she came in contact.


Ella Stewart, 1869

Ella Lovina Stewart was born at Pittsburg, Iowa, May 8, 1848, the daughter of the Reverend Mr. Isaac I. and Mary Robinson Stewart. Mr. Stewart had been a pioneer Methodist minister in frontier Iowa for many years before he met Mary Robinson. He had lost two wives and four children by death. He became a major in the U. S. Army, but his first vocation was the ministry.

Soon after Ella's birth the family moved to Mount Pleasant and the Reverend Mr. Stewart became presiding elder for the Mount Pleasant district of the Methodist Church.

The Stewart family moved into one of the two apartments on the second floor of the Institute Building, the only building on the campus of the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute, which had opened in 1846. President Huestes and his family lived in the other apartment and classes were held on the first floor. Ella Stewart may very well have taken her first steps on the campus of the Collegiate Institute which, in 1853, was renamed Iowa Wesleyan University. At that time the Institute Building became known as Pioneer Hall.

Mr. Stewart became financial agent for the college in 1852, and plans were soon made for the building of Main Hall, which was completed in 1855. After funds for the building were assured, the Stewarts again assumed pastorates at various towns in southeastern Iowa.

It was at Keokuk that disaster came to the family with the death of Mr. Stewart, August 15, 1864. Left with five children and another soon to be born, Mrs. Stewart moved back to Mount Pleasant where she had many old friends and where the children could receive an education. Ella was sixteen at that time and must have assumed much of the responsibility of the household. The new baby, Isaac Ingersoll Stewart, who was later called Harry, was born in Mount Pleasant in October 1864. Mrs. Stewart, gallant little Irish woman that she was, soon started a boarding house for students. With the help of the older children she continued in that business for many years.

Ella entered Iowa Wesleyan in September, 1865, with the class that soon became known as The Lifebloods. Dillon Payne, a classmate wrote tenderly of Ella and spoke of many activities they had shared:

> Ella qualified as a Founder. She had auburn pompadour hair, florid complexion, dressed neatly and in good style, was bright and lively, could play and sing. She always graced our social affairs and took an active part in all of our amusements. Her name was always on the list and by some chance often placed beside mine. In making plans for dates and events, the boys would make a list of their names and each chap would write his favorite's name opposite his own. We knew pretty well beforehand where the girls' names would be written. Sometimes the names would be written and we would draw by lot. That prevented monotony, but did not change preferences. Ella dropped out of college, but kept her place in all our group entertainments. Her home was free for social stunts and she was a splendid hostess. She wore the gold star and sometimes a Beta pin. I have the pin still. Every P.E.O. Founder was included in our winter skating parties on Skunk River and our woods picnics when the spring flowers began to bloom. The custom was for the boys to furnish the buggies and the girls the lunch baskets. Ella's basket was a delmonico of delicacies. It was delight to be there at the opening. College festivities were simple. No cut flowers or taxis were required for town affairs. There were more heart thrills in a slow stroll homeward, gazing at the stars in the milky way, having an earthly one on your arm, exchanging mutual confidences. Ella always shone with luster in the galaxy of the Seven heavenly luminaries (10, Aug. 1925, p. 26).

Ella Stewart was the only one of the founders who did not graduate from Iowa Wesleyan. It was not due to lack of scholarship that she did not graduate, but because the need for her help at home was so great that she found it impossible to carry a full assignment or to attend classes during certain hours. Numerous references state that she continued to associate herself with the college in some capacity, and that she did not drop out of college activities. It seems likely that she audited many classes as a special student though not for credit. Mary Allen Stafford said, "Instead of classifying in any one course leading to graduation she preferred to select her studies from year to year and give special attention to music in which she took special delight. It was in this way that she was associated with all of us in the several departments and classes in which she recited" (10 May 1924, p. 25).

Stewart Home, 1869 – Alice Virginia Coffin also lived at the Stewart home for a time.

For many years Ella gave piano lessons in Mount Pleasant and in adjacent towns. Through these years Ella continued to help at home and took an active part in church, P.E.O., and civic activities. But, true to her instinct for social service, she did far more than that. She sought the needy, the aged, the infirm. She talked with them, read to them, or prepared some appetizing food for an invalid. Wherever work was concerned, Ella Stewart's name was always mentioned.

Teaching music was not very remunerative. Eventually, Ella felt that some change should be made in her status, so she sought the advice of her father's old friend, Thomas E. Corkhill.

For many years the Reverend Mr. Corkhill had worked with wayward boys. He suggested that Ella take a position as teacher at the Iowa Industrial School in Eldora where she might help him with "his boys." This suggestion appealed to Ella's large heart. As a result she devoted eight wonderful, rewarding years to those boys, teaching them far more than the required subjects. She gave unstintingly of her love, time and talents to help troubled boys become good men.

Those years gave purpose to Ella's life. She must have felt they were the culmination of all the years that had gone before. Nothing would have induced her to give up that position except ill health. She returned to Mount Pleasant for a rest in 1891 or 1892, hopeful that she would soon be back in Eldora. But she developed a lung disorder, according to a member of the family. Through long months of uncertainty, then many weeks of great discomfort, Ella never lost her faith and her courage. Effie H. Rogers called her "one of the most intensely earnest Christians I ever knew." Ella knew she might not get well, and accepted that possibility, saying, "Mother dear, let it terminate as it will, it will be all right. This is a beautiful world and I love it but it is not to be compared to the one beyond." She never lost hope, yet she planned for the disposition of her personal belongings.

Two items are of special interest to P.E.O. Her P.E.O. pin, the only one of the original seven pins in existence, was left to Alice Bird, since there were no rules governing the disposition of the pin at that time. Ella's pin and Alice's jeweled pin, given to her by Chapter A in 1902, are now in Memorial Hall at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. To May Brooks Snider, Ella's constant companion during her long illness, she left her diamond ring. The ring is now (1968) in possession of Mrs. Snider's daughters, Stella Snider McKibbin and Bertha Snider Tribbey.

Ella Stewart, later

Ella died December 12, 1894, and is buried in the Old Cemetery at Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

3 Early Meetings

Early meetings of P.E.O. were held in the homes of members and were surrounded with deep secrecy. Parents of the founders knew of the meetings and cooperated fully, but the rest of the world trod its weary way, unaware of the revolutionary ideas unfolding within its midst. Even after the existence of the society had been made public by the march into chapel, meetings continued to be secret. No member went directly from her home to the meeting place. Customarily, she would start in the opposite direction, or make stops along the way, eventually arriving at the designated place. This custom is described below by Lulu Corkhill Williams, a Mount Pleasant girl who was initiated into P.E.O. in the spring of 1869, either just before or just after her fifteenth birthday.

> Everything was of such vast importance, everything was so secret. When and where we held our meetings were of as much secrecy as was our oath. And as for revealing an officer's name—that would have been an offense worthy of expulsion. As I look back I can but smile as I recall how careful we were to go down side streets and double on our tracks, and separate ourselves into groups of one as we neared the place of meeting, lest any idle onlooker should detect more than one girl going into a house on the same afternoon and should guess that the P.E.O.'s were having a meeting (15, p. 13).

Early Minutes Missing

Minutes of the first fifteen months of P.E.O. are missing. The founders did their best to reconstruct events that transpired during that time but, unless by some miracle those minutes should be found, certain events that happened in the early months of P.E.O. can never be documented.

For example: we do not know the exact initiation date for any member initiated before April 16, 1870, when first minutes are available. We do not know whether Cassie Allen or Ione Ambler was the eighth P.E.O. Each thought that she was and years later when this seemed to be important, the founders could not be sure. True, both Ella Stewart and Alice Bird expressed the belief in print that it was Cassie Allen, sister of Mary Allen, but even this is not documentary proof. Only the year of initiation has been recorded with any degree of certainty, for the 18 members initiated before April 16, 1870.

Mrs. Emma C. Hyatt, who was corresponding secretary of Supreme Grand Chapter from 1897 to 1903, was disturbed by the fact that membership records were incomplete. She compiled the necessary records of members in subordinate chapters, 1,200 in all, then with the assistance of state corresponding secretaries, compiled records for members in state grand chapters. Records of nearly 8,000 P.E.O.'s were recorded in large, leatherbound books.

In 1914-15 Mrs. Dell Glazier, after a voluminous correspondence, completed the enormous task of checking, revising, and copying the entire membership list of P.E.O. At that time Mrs. Glazier, of Fort Madison, was corresponding secretary of Supreme Chapter.

No doubt Mrs. Hyatt and Mrs. Glazier, like current historians, encountered many of the difficulties that accompany the reconstruction of events many years after they occur. Perhaps no living P.E.O. could accurately reconstruct her own initiation meeting. Founders and other members initiated the first two or three years, did not always agree on details of important happenings. Nor did the writings of one founder always agree with what she had written previously. However, in most cases, the massive amount of P.E.O. source material points to certain conclusions.

First Business Meeting

There had been glamour and beauty and excitement at the meeting in the music room on Thursday afternoon. At the Saturday meeting which followed there was still excitement, but business was the order of the day, and the founders knew how to conduct business. The real problem was to determine what they wished to become.

Mary Allen said:

> We talked, we thought, we planned over and over at different meetings, and not infrequently between meetings to work out the problems of how to be (10, Dec. 1917, p. 453-56).

Allie Bird said:

> We were earnest and even then desired something broad and substantial. We did not for one moment wish it to be a mere college fraternity, we wished a society of more lasting name and reputation (2, p. 11).

So the first business meeting, held at the home of Mary Allen on the evening of January 23, 1869, was a significant one. It was here that the many ideas and ideals of the founders began to take form. It was here that hundreds of suggestions were made and dozens of motions were resolved in the best parliamentary manner. It was here that the founders began to sense their responsibility toward something larger than themselves and their own precious friendship as they excitedly and fearlessly thought through one step after another until a pattern of procedure began to emerge. It was here that they came to realize the need for many meetings to perfect their constitution until it adequately served their needs.

We cannot accurately reconstruct the first meeting. However, the founders agreed on some of the items of business. Others we assume, either because of correct procedure or because of precedents apparent in meetings that followed.

Being well versed in parliamentary procedure from several years of active participation in the Ruthean Literary Society, the girls would have known that a temporary chairman had to be chosen, then a secretary. We do not know who they were. Undoubtedly one of the first duties of the chairman was to see that the meeting opened with prayer, as P.E.O. meetings still do. For the seven this was natural; it was right; it was good.

Perhaps at this point they were ready to consider the constitution which Alice Bird had been asked to prepare when they met in the music room the preceding Thursday afternoon. Undoubtedly Alice received many suggestions from the other six, and it is known that many additions were made during the weeks that followed, but it was she who so adequately put into writing the first ideas and ideals that outlined the basic principles of P.E.O. How she set about it is a story within itself.

It was like Alice to be sensitive to and conscious of her surroundings as she set about this important task of writing. It was essential too, that she have a reasonable amount of privacy. How this was accomplished was told by Alice many years later:

> How well I recall the day I wrote the primitive constitution. . . . I went into the holy of holies, the spare bedroom in father's house to write it. I recall the figures in the carpet, the high feather bed, covered with the big log-cabin quilt, and fluted pillow shams (17, p. 7).
>
> I recall the pleasure of selecting my fine white paper, the blue ribbon to tie it after the manner of essays of that time, but after the paper and ribbon were evident the words necessary for so important a task failed me. . . . It was not until my father came to my aid with the "whereas" and "therefore resolved" that I got into the line of work. And then I could scarcely stop; the needs of all women, it seemed to me, must be embodied in that document, and such as it was, it has served as a nucleus for our needs ever since (10, June 1907, p. 126).

The experience of the seven in writing constitutions was limited, and their society, fashioned to commemorate their friendship, was to be different from any other. Consequently, their constitution dared to bear the marks of originality. The essential things were properly recorded, but in addition, their constitution revealed much of their personal philosophies and many of the ideals cherished today. No constitution would have seemed appropriate had it failed to reflect that precious something known as the spirit of P.E.O.

It seems important at this point to determine the exact contents of that original draft of the constitution. Study reveals certain facts:

1. There could have been a preamble—a statement of reasons for or intent of the laws to follow. This would seem a natural introduction to the important rules they would make. Thomas Jefferson had written a preamble introducing the laws that governed the United States. This they knew and understood. Perhaps the constitution of the Ruthean Literary Society had a preamble. At any event, one would certainly be in order here.

2. There could have been an article stating the name and emblem of the society. These two decisions had been made at the organization meeting in the music room.

3. There could have been a purpose or object, stating the aims of the society.

But that is all. Other items would have required action by the group so must have been added as decisions were made. These conclusions are borne out by Alice's statement that her "primitive constitution was only one page long." If one combines only these few items in the exact form used later in recording the completed constitution, the original writing could well have read like this:

CONSTITUTION

Whereas, recognizing it to be the chief duty of every individual to cultivate her powers, physical, mental, moral, and social to their fullest extent, we organize ourselves into a Secret Society, and adopt for our government the following constitution and by-laws.

Article 1st

Sec. 1st The Society shall be known by the name of P.E.O.
Sec. 2nd The badge of this Society shall be a golden star with P.E.O. in black enameled letters in the center.

Article 2nd

Sec. 1st The object of this society shall be general improvement, which shall comprehend more especially
1st Improvement in charity toward and interest in each other as P.E.O.'s.

2nd Improvement in our charity toward and interest in all with whom we associate.

3rd Improvement in our manners at home and in society.

4th Improvement in our minds by the pursuing of such books and pamphlets in and out of society as shall be proper for P.E.O.'s.

Article 3rd

This article was based on the chief duty, or principle object as it was called then. We have changed the original wording very little, but the original copy was arranged differently on the page. Points 1st, 2nd and 3rd were set apart and so numbered as in Article 2 above. Then at the end of the third point three beautiful clauses were added: to care for each other in trouble, to sympathize in affliction, and to console in grief.

The arrangement used above is that recorded in the notebook, The Private Papers of Chapter A. Articles 2nd and 3rd may very well have received some alteration before being thus recorded for posterity.

With deep sincerity but also with her natural sense of drama, Alice must have read this one precious page to the other six. She said of this moment:

> When I submitted the little document it was adopted unanimously and as a whole. Every report was adopted, so anxious were all to get to work and revolutionize the world (10, June 1907, p. 126).

Mary Allen wrote thoughtfully of this meeting and the ones that immediately followed:

> It is only just to all to say that to no one of the seven is any need of praise due more than to another for all planned and talked, and thought, and wrought together. What one did not think of another did, while some parts were the result of the combined work of all. The bylaws and ritual were the work of a committee and required so much time and effort that we did not succeed, as we first expected, in completing our organization at our first regular meeting, but it required several meetings and considerable of time to bring these as near perfection as we felt was possible (10, May 1899, p. 66).

Franc Roads added the following few sentences concerning this phase of the organization:

> We worked out an oath and an embryonic constitution. The fact that we were like-minded seemed the most important thing. There was no holding back on the part of anyone and this made for good teamwork in perfecting the organization (15, p. 10).

At this first business meeting there must have been discussion of officers and their duties, for we know that the following officers were elected to serve for six months:

President..Alice Bird
Vice President...Alice Coffin
Secretary..Ella Stewart
Treasurer ....Hattie Briggs

There must have been discussion as to the order of business they would follow. There must have been discussion as to the types of programs best suited to the accomplishments of their goal of self-improvement. There certainly must have been discussion about their chosen emblem. It is likely that Mr. Crane had a sample pin ready for this meeting. Undoubtedly there was dicussion as to how their society should be announced to the world. All this and much more must have occupied a long, exciting evening.

Announcement: The March into Chapel

According to Franc Roads, the girls held divers informal preliminary meetings, always in the strictest secrecy, before they announced themselves to the college public. A dialogue such as the one which follows, might well have taken place at this point in their planning:

> Ella. Now girls, we must decide on a dignified way to announce P.E.O.
> Allie B. It should be something dramatic.
> Allie C. Let's think of some way to call attention to the new star pins.
> Mary. We could make fancy aprons and fasten the pins to them.
> Franc. Then we could march into chapel some morning.
> Suela. But that would just be copying the Betas.
> Hattie. Yes, but the Betas didn't wear aprons.

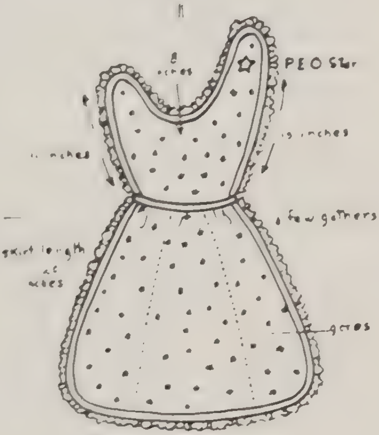
So this was the plan decided upon, regardless of how the decision was reached. It was Mrs. Roads, mother of Franc, who designed the aprons and helped each girl cut and make her own. We find numerous statements to the effect that some of the aprons were finished only the night before the announcement took place. Alice Bird mentioned this project in an article about Franc Roads. Speaking of the Roads' home she wrote:

> The last time I was in Mount Pleasant I walked from the beautiful new hospital in the Grove over to her old home, it seemed much the same as in the sixties, and I stood in front of the window of the room where we seven girls met to make the white and black calico aprons, ruffled all around – left shoulder high for the P.E.O. pin – to be worn next morning in chapel. We had to make them in one evening and her quiet, industrious mother helped us heartily (10, Sept. 1924, p. 2).

Franc Roads described the aprons as follows:

> While the pins were being made, we met at my father's home one afternoon and made seven small unique aprons with bibs cut so that the left shoulder was higher than the other. This side was to be held in place by the P.E.O. pin. The aprons were made of white percale with a design of a small black star and an inch wide ruffle was around the whole apron (15, p. 11).

Franc also drew the sketch reproduced here of one of the aprons.



The march into chapel may have occurred the last week in January, 1869. After this plan was decided upon, only the making of seven pins and seven aprons delayed the performance. One reference states, "On that memorable day in January, etc." It could scarcely have been later than the second week in February for two reasons:

1. Only the seven founders participated.
2. Eight girls besides the original seven had been initiated into P.E.O. before Carrie Woolson returned from Albia College at the close of the winter semester and was initiated early in March.

In spite of careful planning, the actual date for the exciting announcement of P.E.O. was set somewhat by chance. The P.E.O.'s learned, from some mysterious source, that the I. C.'s were making blue calico dresses and were planning to wear them as they went into chapel on a specific morning. The seven P.E.O.'s hurriedly completed their plans and scheduled their march into chapel for the same morning.

Three of the founders and another girl who was in the chapel that day tell the story.

Alice Bird:

> The morning came and as the hour for devotional exercises drew nigh, a band of P.E.O.'s with large white aprons made with high bibs emerged from a room conveniently near the chapel door, and filed into the room ahead of the blue gowned I. C.'s. In order to accomplish this coup d'etat, the industrious P.E.O.'s had sat up nearly all night making the necessary addition to their wardrobe (10, Nov. 1893, p. 2).

Franc Roads:

> There is nothing more fascinating to young people than that which partakes of the dramatic. It was a never-to-be-forgotten morning when, after the mass of the student body had been assembled for religious exercises, the seven of us marched Indian file into chapel, each wearing her new apron, the bib of which was pinned on the left shoulder with the beautiful new star that twinkled for the first time in public. Of course we created wonder—that was part of the program, and as we marched to our seats the students gave us the "glad hand." Everyone was curious. Many conjectures were made as to the meaning of P.E.O. but no one outside ever became the wiser. We were called the "Pleiades" and we enjoyed the poetic allusion. People still speculate and guess but almost half a century has gone and the secret is and will remain—the enigmatic, sphinx like riddle. A record to the ability of women to keep a secret (15, p. 11).

Mrs. Sarah Olive Fegtly Randall spoke in the 1940 convention of Washington State Chapter. She and her brother were in college at Iowa Wesleyan the year that P.E.O. was organized. She was a member of the Ruthean Society, and knew all seven of the P.E.O. founders but knew Suela Pearson best of all. She was in chapel that day when the seven marched in, and reported on it as follows:

> On that memorable day in January, I went into the cloakroom, and found three or four of the girls whispering in conversation behind the big door, so I left the cloakroom and went on into chapel. I took a seat there about fourth row from the front. Soon here came the seven girls with their aprons and the star emblem pinned to the left shoulder. We all wore aprons in those days. They came single file, slowly up the aisle and took a seat across the aisle from me. This made quite a sensation! Some students cleared their throats, others moved over to see what all this meant. I looked and, like others, wondered what it meant. At close of chapel many students gathered around to talk.
>
> These girls loved each other and wanted a mutual tie to bind them to each other. This first appearance of P.E.O. is like what Christ said of the mustard seed, "The smallest of seeds, and yet the birds can rest their wings in the branches." So from the small beginning P.E.O. has spread and now seventy thousand women (1940) wear the star emblem, and I have lived to see its growth, and am proud to be one of its members (10, Dec. 1940, p. 13).

Ella Stewart:

> When the stars first shown forth in all their normal beauty of gold and black enamel great was the commotion in college and town, and many were the conjectures as to the real meaning of P.E.O. Some jokingly guessed "Pigs Eat Onions," others of a more classical turn of mind said "Pleiades et Orian," thinking it had reference to the constellation, as we chose a star as our ensign. ... The society increased, as we had concluded to go outside of the college, and by this time we were weighing the subject of extension, the results of which you partially see today (2, p. 21).

Apparently P.E.O. was well recieved on the campus. Franc Roads said, "Our young organization met with sympathy from the college."

Source material fails to record the reaction of the I.C.'s that morning. They were left following the P.E.O.'s into chapel. Undoubtedly this was P.E.O. day, but it was not always so. The friendly rivalry between the two groups was keen indeed, with each group inciting the other to further achievements.

Although P.E.O. was very new and demanded much of their attention, the founders still had almost two months of college to complete before the end of the semester in March. This was the last semester for the five seniors although they did not participate in commencement activities until June.

4 On Campus 1865-69

The Lifebloods

In September 1865, Iowa Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, opened its doors to a distinctive group of students. Members of that freshman class soon named themselves The Lifebloods. They are so designated in the history of Iowa Wesleyan, and are still affectionately referred to by that title.

The Lifebloods drew most of their members from Howe's Academy, from the academy at Iowa Wesleyan and from neighboring towns, as was customary. But in addition, the class also included a large number of men students newly returned from the battlefields of the Civil War. Many had been attracted to Iowa Wesleyan by the offer of a year's free tuition to any soldier honorably discharged from the Union Army. Close to 500 veterans availed themselves of this opportunity in the years which immediately followed the war. Many entered the academy at Iowa Wesleyan and finished undergraduate work there before entering classes on the college level.

Five of the seven founders of P.E.O. were included with The Lifebloods that fall of 1865: Mary J. Allen and Harriet J. Briggs from the Preparatory Department or Academy at Iowa Wesleyan; M. Alice Bird and Alice V. Coffin from Howe's Academy; and Ella L. Stewart whose family had moved to Mount Pleasant the year before, following the death of her father. Marie Suela Pearson, younger than the five above, spent another year in the Preparatory Department of Iowa Wesleyan. Franc E. Roads, the youngest of the seven, finished at Howe's Academy that year. Both Suela and Franc entered Iowa Wesleyan University in September 1866. Franc finished the Scientific Course in three years, graduating with The Lifebloods in 1869. Suela took the classical course and graduated in 1871.

So the cast was assembled, but questions fall in rapid succession as one projects himself into the dramatic era in history which immediately preceded the organization of P.E.O.

The Campus – 1865

The campus of Iowa Wesleyan, in the north part of Mount Pleasant, is only four blocks north of the town square. The twenty-acre tract had been prairie land when donated for campus purposes in 1842, but it did not remain so. Dr. Bird, father of Alice Bird, is credited with planting many kinds of trees and shrubs there, and a Mr. Avery of Burlington donated 700 maple trees to the college in 1860. Soon after the occupation of Main Hall the "campus was made more attractive and the newly fenced botanical garden of Old Main served as an adequate retirement for the 'young ladies' and was definitely a no-man's land" (1, p. 26). Undoubtedly many other plantings followed. By 1865 hundreds of trees and shrubs must have been large enough to add beauty to the campus. Some of them are the beautiful old trees still standing (1968).

Two fine buildings housed college activities when the founders attended Iowa Wesleyan. In 1845 classes had started in Pioneer Hall, known originally as the Institute building, since the name of the college at that time was the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute. Main Hall had become available in 1855. The three-story building was considered the best educational building in Iowa, perhaps the best in the Midwest. Both buildings face south and are very close together, only two or three feet between the southeast corner of Pioneer and the northwest corner of Main Hall. The reason for this remains a mystery, considering the large amount of building space available at that time. On the campus, too, were the usual outbuildings of that era.

Those were the only official buildings on the campus for many years. However, the extreme northwestern part of the campus was somewhat secluded, and for a time one of the early residents who lived nearby, took the liberty of building a barn and pigpen there. Only stern measures by the trustees were effective in having them removed.

Sidewalks made of planks were used for a great many years, and were shown near Pioneer and Main Hall in certain early pictures of the university. Walks led to each corner of the campus where stiles were built for exit or entrance. The campus was fenced, as were most home lots, for stray animals were numerous. Satisfactory pictures of the fence are not available, but some early settlers said the fence was of boards – two or three horizontal rows fastened to posts, similar to the English hurdle fences.

The Chapel

The chapel was an integral part of college life. As a rule, it was treated with due respect and remembered with nostalgia. It provided a place for cultural activities, recreation, and spiritual uplift. It was the general meeting place—a cultural center if you will—in spite of its location on the third floor of Main Hall. It occupied the entire east end of the third floor, the space of the four double windows on the right when one is looking at the front of Old Main.

Chapel services were held each morning at eight o'clock, Monday through Friday. Seats were assigned and attendance by students was compulsory, except for excused absences. Stories have recorded that women sat on one side of the room, men on the other. Students were expected to attend the church of their choice Sunday mornings, and faculty lectures held in the chapel Sunday afternoons. Occasionally there was a series of revival meetings there.

Now, the stairway in Main Hall was at the back of the building and about center east and west. An attractive stair rail lent beauty to the architecture. On occasion, the stair rail was known to offer quick transportation to the ground floor from the floors above. Legend has it that women students—even a founder or two—were known to use that means of locomotion when no men were about.

The following unusual item, which also concerns the chapel, is quoted from the history of Iowa Wesleyan:

> In the spring of 1887 the Science Department purchased a dynamo and steam engine which were placed in the science room. At that time it was in the southeast room of the first floor of Old Main. The chapel on the third floor was wired and the public paid admission to see the special demonstration of the new electric lights. The university planned to illuminate the entire building with electricity instead of gas but for some reason it was not done at this time (8, p. 47).

Educational and Financial Status

The Collegiate Institute had become Iowa Wesleyan University January 25, 1855. Through twenty difficult, challenging and often discouraging years, this pioneer Methodist college not only functioned, but became an educational institution of high collegiate standards. It had earned the respect of educators. For a time after 1855 it even enjoyed a feeling of permanency not present in the very early years.

The financial struggle had been long and continuous and would remain so for years to come. However, Iowa Wesleyan was and still is (1968) a prime example of what determination and many small donations can accomplish.

Perhaps the most unusual fund-raising project employed by this institution was the sale of Perpetual Scholarships. This project was started around 1854 as one means of raising funds to build Main Hall. The scholarships were sold for $100 each—$20 to be paid at the time of purchase and the remainder in four annual payments.

A printed, parchment-like certificate was issued to each purchaser which outlined the terms of the contract. Briefly, only one student at a time could use the scholarship, i.e., be free from paying tuition. The scholarship was non-transferable except that it could be handed down from generation to generation as specified in the will of the owner.

The Perpetual Scholarship certificate bought in 1867 by Ella Stewart's mother, Mary R. Stewart, is now (1968) on display in P.E.O. Memorial Hall at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Ella was in college at that time and must have been the first of the Stewart family to use it. Undoubtedly some of the other founders, possibly all of them, attended college on Perpetual Scholarships.

About the time that Mrs. Stewart bought her scholarship—12 or 13 years after the scholarship plan was started—an appraisal of this financial plan was made. According to the Minutes of Trustees, September 26, 1866, $20,750 had been collected on Perpetual Scholarships. But the following year President Elliott made public the actual facts concerning this financial plan. It had been difficult to collect the total amount due on the contracts. Receipts from scholarships had averaged six dollars per student per semester, while the loss in tuition fees was fifteen dollars per student per semester. Certainly the scholarships had attracted students and had brought in several thousand dollars to help finance the building of Main Hall which cost $17,500, but obviously a prolonged use of the system was not practical. The sale of Perpetual Scholarships was discontinued, in June of 1867, although existing ones continued to be honored for many years.

Semesters and Vacations

As most educational institutions of the middle and late nineteenth century, Iowa Wesleyan University operated under the three semester system, commonly designated as the fall, winter and spring semesters. Later summer school added a fourth semester. Vacations consisted of a few days between the regular semesters. Summer vacation was from the third week in June to the first of September. Christmas Day and New Year's Day were holidays and study rules were suspended for the preceding evenings. At times a holiday was granted for students to attend the county fairs in September.

A Bit of Campustry

Campus activities are usually governed by rules which originate with college authorities or with the students themselves. Disciplinary rules were plentiful at Iowa Wesleyan in 1865, but did not originate with the students, except within literary societies. The history of Iowa Wesleyan quotes rules found in old catalogues and tells of the efforts made to enforce them.

College authorities recognized the serious responsibilities entailed with the mingling of male and female students. This was the post Civil War period, too, and students were somewhat more sophisticated than their predecessors. A large academy of younger students was a part of the institution which further complicated the problem.

Many precautions were taken in an effort to maintain high moral conduct. Even to matriculate, a student had to furnish testimonials of good moral character. Once in college he was confronted with a long list of prohibitions, and, if one were too worldly he was likely to be expelled. Students were also subject to college rules during vacation "as far as applicable."

Young women were permitted to participate in women's literary societies, but were required to hold their meetings in the afternoon. The men's societies met in the evening. The men had their problems, too. At one time the Philomathean Literary Society voted that any member who chewed tobacco and spit upon the floor of the society's room would be fined fifty cents for each offense. Some members took up smoking which, in turn, was outlawed during meetings.

One rule which deeply concerned both men and women stated that young ladies and gentlemen were not allowed to walk, associate or converse together except by permission. A few daring young men who walked with or called upon young women students without permission were immediately summoned before the faculty. Since the only punishment was the lowering of the student's deportment grades, this rule was difficult to enforce. However, the majority of students followed the rules most of the time, since permission was not too difficult to obtain. According to college catalogues, items strictly prohibited included: "ungentlemanly treatment of students or citizens; making or receiving visits during study hours; amusements or visits of pleasure on the Sabbath; absence from room after study hours at night; loud laughing; wrestling or jumping, or unnecessary noise in the college building; leaving town without permission of the President; contracting debts without the knowledge and consent of parents or guardian; writing upon or otherwise defacing the college buildings or furniture; and all other breaches of good morals or good order." There were also penalties for unexcused absences from class, chapel, or from rooms during study hours. These and many other rules were in effect through the early years.

But disciplinary rules were relaxed, gradually, after the 1865 freshman class, known as The Lifebloods, enrolled at Iowa Wesleyan. The Civil War veterans, with their maturity and experience, soon made their influence felt in all college activities. Rules designed for preceding classes were somewhat absurd when applied to war veterans. Even so, authorities agonized over proposed changes in rules, realizing anew, their responsibility to maintain a high moral standing for both the university and its students.

Literary Societies

Literary societies at Iowa Wesleyan were held in high esteem by college authorities and town people alike. This was in keeping with the trends of that era. Programs, whether debates, essays, orations, talks or music, were on a high level and all proceedings were conducted in the best parliamentary manner. Anyone who actively participated in a literary society could conduct a meeting and do it well. Literary societies offered fine opportunities for self-improvement, and many students gained knowledge and self-confidence as participants.

Only three literary societies existed at Iowa Wesleyan while the founders of P.E.O. attended college there: Hamline for men, organized February 22, 1855; Ruthean for women, organized December 5, 1855; and Philomathean for men, organized in 1858. In 1874 an attempt was made to organize a coeducational society to be known as the Athenian Literary Society. It lasted only a few weeks. It was not until 1890 that Hypatia, another literary society for women, was organized. By that time there were several fraternities and sororities on the campus. Girls from both I.C. and P.E.O. belonged to the Ruthean Literary Society. Differences of opinion often developed, so the I.C.'s and a number of non-sorority girls withdrew from the Ruthean Society and with a few others, organized the Hypatia Literary Society on February 7, 1890.

Attempts had been made through the years to assign each literary society a room of its own in Main Hall. This was not always possible. In 1890, after Hypatia was organized, the Rutheans accepted an invitation to share a room with the Hamlines. The Philomatheans shared their hall with the Hypatias. In all probability these were the two west rooms on the third floor of Main Hall.

Most graduating seniors gave two addresses or orations, one in their literary society exhibition, and one at their regular commencement exercises. The Rutheans, graduating from Iowa Wesleyan, received a diploma from the society in a public ceremony. Alice Coffin's Ruthean diploma is in the Historical Room of Memorial Hall (1968).

Class Exhibitions

The class exhibition was one activity with which every student had to cope. Each semester each class prepared an evening's program to which the public was invited. Each class member was expected to appear on the program in some capacity. As in the literary societies, there were essays, orations, declamations, music, etc. Sometimes these exhibitions were followed by conversation or a promenade in the halls of Old Main. Newspaper editors or their proxies attended these affairs and wrote critical reports for their papers. Soon after the Civil War a quartette composed of Alice Bird, Carrie Woolson, Thomas George and Allen Ghost became popular campus and city entertainers. Here is a paragraph from the History of Iowa Wesleyan College, quoted from the Mount Pleasant Journal for March 8, 1867:

> In the student generation immediately following the Civil War a mixed quartette called the Jedediah Club gained considerable local prominence. The name was taken from one of their favorite humorous songs. They could "bring down the house" in that dignified age. At a junior class exhibition in 1867 the local news reporter stated that "the Jedediah Club enlivened the occasion with songs superior to anything we ever heard them sing. The song entitled 'The Medley' suspended the rules, demoralized the house, set feet to stamping, hands to clapping and everybody to laughing. The new Star Spangled Banner was also a good thing" (1, p. 23).

5 Degrees, Commencement

Degrees and Transcripts

Many articles have recorded that the founders studied Greek, Latin, French, astronomy, music, and art. That was only a beginning. Certainly the founders had been taught to think. Certainly, too, their intellectual curiosity was no happenstance. Undoubtedly that small, pioneer, Methodist college did much to shape their thought. Due to the cooperation of Iowa Wesleyan we are privileged to study the transcript of each founder and to determine the courses each completed to earn her degree.

Grades are not printed here, except for a few taken at random, which serve only to help explain the grading system in use at that time. All of the founders were good students and it was the exception for one of their grades to drop below 90. Many are recorded at 98, 99 or 100.

A new grading system was established at Iowa Wesleyan University beginning with the second, or winter semester, starting in December, 1865. The new system recorded such grades as 8, 7, 6, 7 2/8, 7 5/8, 7 1/2, 6 3/4, 6 7/8, etc. The key to this grading system disappeared. But it seems likely that it was:

Probable Key	Grades above would translate
8 = 100	8 = 100
7 = 92	7 = 92
6 = 84	6 = 84
5 = 76	7 2/8 = 94
4 = 68	7 5/8 = 97
3 = 60	7 1/2 = 96
2 = 52	6 3/4 = 90
1 = 44	6 7/8 = 91

Three of the founders, Mary Allen, Alice Bird, and Suela Pearson, took the classical course which was patterned after the better schools of the East. This was indeed a comprehensive course abounding in Latin and Greek. Small wonder that three years after graduation Alice Bird was invited to fill the Chair of Latin and Greek at Iowa Wesleyan. She taught classes in Latin, Greek and elocution from 1872 to 1876. Alice and Mary finished their work for A.B. degrees in March, 1869, Suela in March, 1871.

Academic requirements for the scientific course, or the B.S. degree, did not include Latin or Greek, but added extra courses in mathematics, astronomy, surveying, etc. For a time it was possible to complete the course in three years, which Franc Roads did. Alice Coffin and Harriet Briggs both started the classical course but changed to scientific: Harriet at the beginning of her sophomore year and Alice, beginning with her junior year. Franc, Alice V., and Harriet finished the requirements for B.S. degrees in March, 1869.

Education for Ella did not come easy. It had to be fitted into the busy schedule of the family. She started college in September, 1865, taking only a partial assignment in the Scientific Department. She continued in this manner for two years, after which the college has no records of her class work. However, she must have continued to associate herself with the college in some capacity for she did not drop out of college activities. Mary Allen once wrote that Ella Stewart did not work towards any special degree but must have had almost enough credits to graduate.

Classical Course—A.B. Degree

Mary J. Allen

Preparatory Dept.
Sept. 1864—March 1865

Freshman
Aug. 1865—March 1866
Virgil
Trigonometry
Analogy
Trigonometry

Sophomore
Aug. 1866—March 1867
Calculus
Physiology
History
Xenophon's Memorabilia
Composition
Demosthenes
Livy
Chemistry
French
Composition
Botany
Calculus
History
Memorabilia
Livy
Demosthenes
Fowler's English
Composition
Class in Music

Junior
Sept. 1867—March 1868
Mental Philosophy
Tacitus
Composition
Physics
Mental Philosophy
Tacitus
Physics
Composition
Elements of Criticism
Class in Painting and Drawing

Senior
Sept. 1868—March 1869
Moral Philosophy
Logic
Astronomy
Evidences of Christianity
Political Economy
Astronomy
Rhetoric
Analogy

M. Alice Bird

Freshman
Sept. 1865—March 1866
Virgil
Algebra
Composition
Algebra
German
Virgil
Herodotus
Homer's Iliad
Composition

Sophomore
Aug. 1866—March 1867
Chemistry
History
Physiology
Trigonometry
Composition
Analogy
Chemistry
Demosthenes
Livy
Composition
Analytics
Livy
Botany
History
Xenophon's Memorabilia
Livy
Demosthenes
Class in Music

Junior
Sept. 1867—March 1868
Mental Philosophy
German
Literature
Tacitus
Mental Philosophy
German
Physics
Literature
German
Physics
Composition
Tacitus

Senior
Sept. 1868—March 1869
Moral Philosophy
Logic
Astronomy
French
Evidences of Christianity
Political Economy

Suela Pearson

Preparatory Dept.
Sept. 1865—March 1866

Freshman
Aug. 1866—March 1867
Virgil
Composition
Greek Grammar
Algebra
Fowler's English
Greek Grammar
Composition
Anabasis
Class in Music

Freshman
Sept. 1867—March 1868
Virgil
Homer
Algebra
Composition
German
Composition
Algebra

Sophomore
Sept. 1868—March 1869
Chemistry
Livy
Horace
Drews
Botany
Trigonometry

Junior
Sept. 1869—March 1870
Political Economy
Psychology
Trigonometry
Sophocles
Analytics
Tacitus
Composition
Physics
Metaphysics
Geology
Physics
Greek Test
Composition

Senior
Sept. 1870—March 1871
Astronomy
Logic

Classical Course—A.B. Degree (cont.)

Mary J. Allen

Senior (cont.)
Class in Painting and Drawing

Received an A.B. degree in March 1869
Received an A.M. degree 1872

M. Alice Bird

Senior (cont.)
History
Astronomy
Rhetoric
Analogy
French
Class in Modern Language

Received an A.B. degree in March 1869
Received an A.M. degree 1872

Suela Pearson

Senior (cont.)
Greek Test.
Bible History
French
Butler
Ovid
Hist. of Philosophy
Rhetoric
Composition
Moral Science
Nat. Th.
Astronomy
French

Graduated A.B. 1871
Graduated A.M. 1874

Scientific Course—B.S. Degree

Harriet J. Briggs

Preparatory Dept.
Sept. 1864—March 1865

Freshman
Sept. 1865—March 1866
Herod
Virgil
Trigonometry
Composition

Ist year
Scientific Dept.
Aug. 1866—March 1867
English Literature
Algebra
Philosophy
Chemistry
German
Fowler's English
Composition
Algebra
German
Fowler's English
English Literature

Alice V. Coffin

Freshman
Aug. 1865—March 1866
Virgil
Algebra
Greek Grammar
Composition
Virgil
Cicero
Algebra
Composition
Class in Music

Sophomore
Aug. 1866—March 1867
Xenophon's Memorabilia
Physiology
Trigonometry
Composition
History
Demosthones
Livy
Chemistry
Composition
Analogy

Franc E. Roads

Ist year
Scientific Dept.
Aug. 1866—March 1867
Natural Philosophy
English Literature
Composition
Fowler's English
German
Composition
Chemistry
Algebra
German
Fowler's English
English Literature
Chemistry
Class in Oil Painting and Drawing

IInd year
Scientific Dept.
Sept. 1867—March 1868
Mental Philosophy
German
Composition

Scientific Course—B.S. Degree (cont.)

Harriet J. Briggs

Ist year (cont.)
Composition

IInd year
Scientific Dept.
Sept. 1867—March 1868
Mental Science
Trigonometry
Composition
Mental Philosophy
Analogy
Physics
Composition
Trigonometry
Surveying
Analogy
Composition
Physics
Class in Painting and Drawing

IIIrd. year
Scientific Dept.
Sept. 1868—March 1869
Moral Philosophy
Logic
Astronomy
Evidences of Christianity
Political Economy
Biblical History
Astronomy
Rhetoric
Analogy
Class in Music
Class in Painting and Drawing

Received B.S. degree in March 1869
Received M.S. degree 1872

Alice V. Coffin

Sophomore (cont.)
Trigonometry and Surveying
Botany
Class in Music

Junior
Sept. 1867—March 1868
Changed to Scientific Dept. IInd year
Mental Philosophy
German
Physics
Literature
Composition
Rhetoric
Physics
Composition

Senior
Sept. 1868—March 1869
IIIrd. year Scientific Dept.
Moral Philosophy
Logic
Astronomy
Evidences of Christianity
Political Economy
Astronomy
Rhetoric
Analogy

Received a B.S. degree in March 1869
Received an M.S. degree 1872

Franc E. Roads

IInd year (cont.)
Mental Philosophy
Analogy
Physics
Composition
German
Trigonometry and Surveying
Analogy
Composition
Physics

IIIrd. year
Scientific Dept.
Sept. 1868—March 1869
Moral Philosophy
Logic
Astronomy
Evidences of Christianity
Political Economy
Astronomy
History of Philosophy
Rhetoric
Analogy

Received a B.S. degree in March 1869
Received an M.S. degree 1872

Ella Stewart

Ist year
Scientific Department
August 1865—March 1866
English Literature
Elementary Philosophy
Algebra
Composition
Analogy
December 1866—March 1867
Subjects taken:
Fowler's English Grammar
Composition
No further records

Master's Degree

For about thirty-five years, Iowa Wesleyan followed the practice of conferring Master's Degrees upon graduates, providing they had been successful in their chosen fields during the three years following graduation. This was the basis for the A.M. and M.S. degrees conferred upon the founders.

Commencement Activities

Commencement activities in 1869 at Iowa Wesleyan University could not have been much different than hundreds of others held throughout the United States during the late nineteenth century. Yet because of P.E.O., there was something special about the Iowa Wesleyan event of 1869.

Five of the graduating senior girls and two other close friends had organized P.E.O. on the college campus in January, 1869. Much attention had been given to this early society for women while the girls finished the winter semester, ending in March. The close of that semester marked the end of classroom work for the five senior girls. Degrees had been earned but commencement exercises would not be held until June 16. This gave the girls much time to prepare for that event and it gave them needed time to devote to P.E.O. They initiated a dozen or more of their good friends into P.E.O. that spring. The exact number and the initiation dates are not available but Lulu Corkhill was initiated in March and she is number 18 on the membership list.

The girls also had ample time to prepare and memorize orations for commencement; and essays, orations, declamations or music for the Ruthean exhibition held a few days earlier in Union Hall. That program was also spoken of as the Southern exhibition.

Time was also needed to acquire the few new garments the girls would wear as they attended commencement functions. There would be baccalaureate, the president's reception and a few private parties in addition to the Ruthean exhibition and the regular commencement exercises. Commencement week was indeed a gala occasion. Clothing for women was considered a major project at that time since material had to be bought by the yard and the garments made by a member of the family or a hired seamstress. In addition, this was the reconstruction era following the Civil War and economy was more than an idle phrase. The girls were accustomed to having one good dress of silk for Sunday and perhaps two calico or gingham ones for week days. Even calico was seventy-five cents a yard, according to Alice Bird, and good black silk was three dollars a yard and it took "twenty-seven yards of twenty-two-inch wide goods to make a dress." The girls realized that their parents were very liberal, and that new clothes for commencement must be planned with care.

Alice Bird told how the clothes problem was solved in her article about the tarlatan dresses, written many years later. Two points need to be clarified before quoting the article:

1. The tarlatan dresses were made for the Ruthean exhibition which preceded the regular commencement exercises. They were also worn a year and a half later to the Sidereal Soiree, the party given by the P.E.O. Society Monday evening, December 26, 1870. All seven of the founders made tarlatan dresses (8, Jan. 1945, p. 6). Mary Allen chose heliotrope for her dress; Franc Roads, light green; Alice Coffin, white; Hattie Briggs, pink; Ella Stewart, blue; Sue Pearson, canary; and Alice Bird, rose.

2. Undoubtedly all seven girls participated in the Ruthean exhibition, as all were Ruthean members. Ella Stewart, though not formally enrolled in college, continued to participate in regular class and other group activities. Sue Pearson, although a sophomore, could have appeared on the program and probably did.

The Tarleton Dresses
by Alice Bird

[Note 19th century spelling of tarleton.]

> In these days of conserving, many have asked me if during and directly after the Civil War, we had such dire experiences, and as P.E.O.'s you will be interested in a little episode that occurred in '69, when we girls were collecting our few graduating garments. Of course, our parents were going to afford one good dress for Commencement Day—of silk mostly, silk that would wear well, that would make over and color and then turn upside down. But we were ambitious girls. We declared the war was over and that we ought to have two new dresses. Our parents hardly thought so. They couldn't say "think of the poor soldiers" any more, for the soldiers were back home doing more mischief than they did in the war making love to their girls in college; but they insisted that two new dresses were too many, that we must continue economizing till the war debt was paid.
>
> So we girls got together and talked it over. "Let's get something pretty," said Sue Pearson, "even if it's cheap, as it's got to be. For once let's put on

> color, and not wear old black silk." "How would tarleton do?" asked another. We decided that was just what we wanted. Now tarleton then, as now, I guess, was a kind of refined mosquito netting—cheese cloth, we might call it today. "We can get any color we want," another said, "and we can scrape up the money somehow, and we can even make the dresses. They do not need to be made like black silks, just yanked up here and ruffled there, and a big sash. Why I could pin one together." So we all bought the tarleton dresses; and we made them. They were lovely dresses, but not half so lovely as the girls who wore them.
>
> There we sat on the platform of the old Union Hall the night of the Southern exhibition, and the audience said "Oh" audibly. Mary Allen had a swollen jaw that night, from toothache, but she came in her light purple or heliotrope tarleton, using a very lovely fan to hide the swollen face. Sue Pearson wore one of canary color; Allie Coffin, pure white; Hattie Briggs, pink; Franc Roads Elliott, I forgot—but I'll wager she wore light green—the artist in Franc was uppermost then, although we didn't know what art was, so I know she would wear a color that would startle and please—and I wore rose color. Now what do you think of this array? When I tell you that tarleton was 75 cents a yard and the paper muslin lining also 75 cents a yard, you will know we girls picked a good many quarts of gooseberries to pay for them.
>
> There was another characteristic in our garb that night. Nearly all of us had short hair—shingled, we called it then. Anna Dickenson had recently delivered her famous lecture in Mt. Pleasant on "paupers, idiots, and women," and oh, her beautiful short heavy curling hair! We girls dared one another to look like Anna Dickenson and every one of us had long luxuriant hair cut off, and so wore it through our college life. Why, we made Charlie Davis, our barber, actually rich by the fashion we started; and they used to say that curls from Sue Pearson's or Mary Allen's hair could be found in certain vest pockets, stolen, of course, from Charlie Davis's shop, for the girls would never give away their curls this promiscuously.
>
> Well, those tarleton dresses were worth a hundred black silks. They threw a kind of radiance over that rather somber time, somber because the shadows in so many homes, were still behind the doors, and waiting in the quiet of the night time.
>
> A few years ago, I sadly took my tarleton dress out of the trunk. It had fallen to pieces, died in the harness, so to speak; while my black and white silk graduating dress, trimmed with green fringe, lay like a mummy at the bottom of my trunk waiting to be made over, until finally it, too, fell to pieces, and was burned without tears or mourners. But the old tarleton brought great sobs into my throat. I thought of the color, the light, the senior reception, the bright eyes of boys and girls, the blushes, the good night at the gate. But tears in my eyes may dim the western light, and I must make the most of it, ere the sun sets (10, Dec. 1941, p. 9).

The tarlatan dresses were one means of calling attention to the group as a whole. Mrs. May Brooks Snider, initiated by Chapter A in 1875, called attention to this in her delightful story about the girls who founded P.E.O.

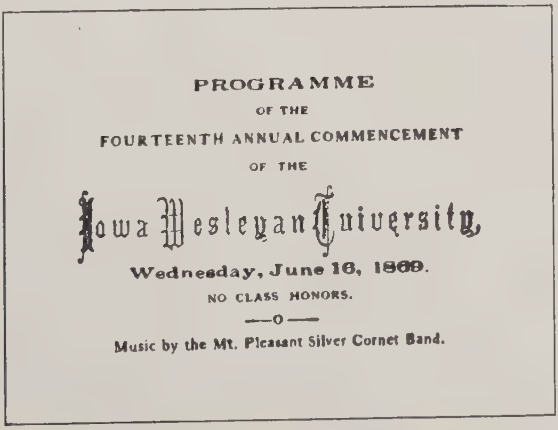
> They were all the while wishing to emphasize their group. The legendary aprons is one example. When spring came in 1869 with its sunny days they all appeared on the campus one morning wearing sunbonnets lined with pink (8, Mar. 1942, p. 18).

Commencement Program

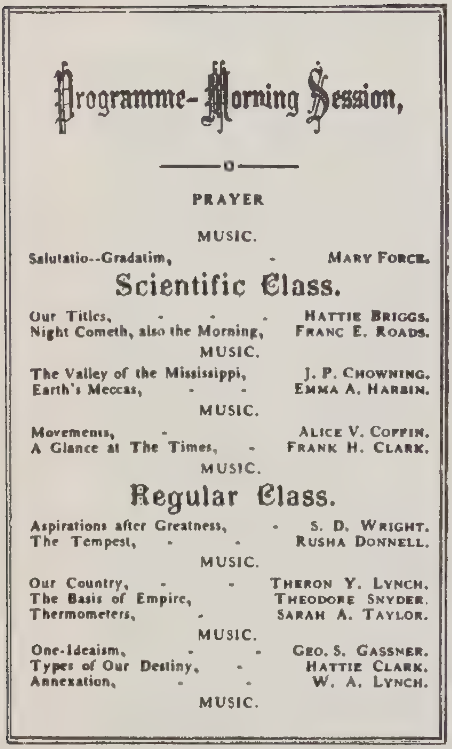
After several months of preparation, the actual commencement ceremonies might well have proved to be an anti-climax had it not been for the fact that each graduate participated by delivering an oration. Schooled as the founders were in public performance, it is certain that they would not have taken this performance lightly. In fact, it would have been difficult for anyone to take such a program lightly. It was an all-day affair, the twenty-four orations interspersed with music by the Mount Pleasant Silver Cornet Band. The length of the program, of course, was determined by the large number of graduates. Numbers in previous classes had ranged from one to twelve. We find no record of academic regalia having been worn at Iowa Wesleyan during these early years, so we assume the founders wore the good Sunday dresses that their parents had provided.

These exercises may have been held in the chapel on the third floor of Main Hall; but it is more likely that a hall was rented downtown, since the program lasted all day and involved many families. This was done quite often during the seventies and eighties and until the chapel building was constructed in 1892. Occasionally, weather permitting, and if the graduating class was not too large, exercises were held at night in the college grove under gas lights.

Members of this class of 1869 still called themselves The Lifebloods. They had distinguished themselves in many ways during their college careers. A copy of their commencement program is in the historical rooms of P.E.O. Memorial Hall in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, (1968) given by the daughter of Dillon Payne, valedictorian of the class of 1869. A copy of the program is printed below. The 'regular class' refers to the classical course.



PROGRAMME
OF THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT
OF THE
Iowa Wesleyan University,
Wednesday, June 16, 1869.
NO CLASS HONORS.
——0——
Music by the Mt. Pleasant Silver Cornet Band.



Programme–Morning Session,

PRAYER

MUSIC.

Salutatio--Gradatim, -	MARY FORCE.

Scientific Class.

Our Titles, - - -	HATTIE BRIGGS.
Night Cometh, also the Morning,	FRANC E. ROADS.

MUSIC.

The Valley of the Mississippi,	J. P. CHOWNING.
Earth's Meccas, - -	EMMA A. HARBIN.

MUSIC.

Movements, -	ALICE V. COFFIN.
A Glance at The Times, -	FRANK H. CLARK.

MUSIC.

Regular Class.

Aspirations after Greatness, -	S. D. WRIGHT.
The Tempest, - -	RUSHA DONNELL.

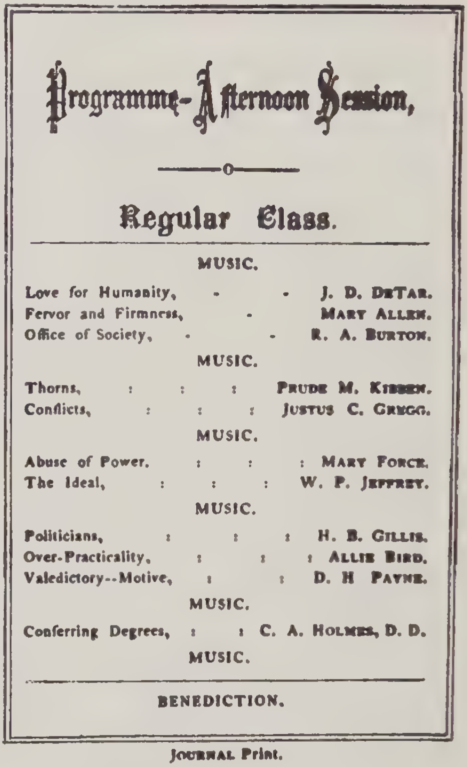
MUSIC.

Our Country, - -	THERON Y. LYNCH.
The Basis of Empire,	THEODORE SNYDER.
Thermometers, -	SARAH A. TAYLOR.

MUSIC.

One-Idealism, - -	GEO. S. GASSNER.
Types of Our Destiny, -	HATTIE CLARK.
Annexation, - -	W. A. LYNCH.

MUSIC.



Programme–Afternoon Session,

Regular Class.

MUSIC.

Love for Humanity, - -	J. D. DETAR.
Fervor and Firmness, -	MARY ALLEN.
Office of Society, - -	R. A. BURTON.

MUSIC.

Thorns, : : :	PRUDE M. KIBBEN.
Conflicts, : : :	JUSTUS C. GREGG.

MUSIC.

Abuse of Power, : : :	MARY FORCE.
The Ideal, : : :	W. P. JEFFREY.

MUSIC.

Politicians, : : :	H. B. GILLIS.
Over-Practicality, : : :	ALLIE BIRD.
Valedictory--Motive, : :	D. H PAYNE.

MUSIC.

Conferring Degrees, : :	C. A. HOLMES, D. D.

MUSIC.

BENEDICTION.

JOURNAL Print.

It will be rememberd that Suela Pearson graduated two years later, June 21, 1871. The title of her oration was "Mystery."

6 Patterns in P.E.O.

The development of cultural patterns within a specific society, or cluster of individuals, reveals imagination, communication, creativity, need, and the general ability to work together in developing these patterns.

A small cluster or group of people organized P.E.O. Cultural patterns were developed in response to group needs. But no single P.E.O. pattern exists, for P.E.O. is a many-patterned thing, comprehensive in structure, delicate in concept. It reaches back into antiquity and stretches ahead to the limits of the imagination. It is involved in the history of mankind yet it concerns persons. P.E.O. is like a precious hand-cut gem with each plateau a pattern in itself.

But patterns, to be useful, must fall within a framework so the founders sought theirs among familiar organized groups. In that mid-nineteenth century there were few from which to choose, for there were no service or dinner clubs for men and no social or study clubs for women. Each church had its own unique organization, scarcely applicable to a small society of women. Literary societies were prevalent on college campuses. Lodges were numerous and popular throughout the country. The fraternity system was new in Iowa, although it began in 1776 as Phi Beta Kappa, a small discussion group at William and Mary College, and was set in motion in 1825 by the Kappa Alpha fraternity. As fraternities developed they borrowed heavily from the familiar but ancient lodge pattern with its pageantry, its distinctive vocabulary, and its touch of secrecy.

Two organized groups were established on the Iowa Wesleyan campus before P.E.O. was born there in January, 1869: Beta Theta Pi, June, 1868, and I.C. Sorosis, later designated by its Greek letters Pi Beta Phi, December, 1868. It was to be expected that a new society on the campus would attempt to fit itself into the fraternity pattern and so it did. But there were differences from the beginning. For one thing, P.E.O. was fashioned to commemorate the love and friendship of seven girls, and so long as P.E.O. exists it will reflect those qualities. In the early years Chapter A drew most of its membership from colleges, although members continued to be active after graduation, which pointed to the future development of a unique society destined to carve its own distinctive patterns.

The real nature of P.E.O. is learned only with long years of participation in its activities. Yet much of its inspiration and the only true documentary source of its early patterns have been caught and held for us between the covers of several slim volumes of minutes, beginning with April 16, 1870. Inside are the first available minutes of P.E.O. The ink has faded and much of the fine script is difficult to decipher, making it necessary to use a magnifying glass to read many of the pages. But the record is there: what the brave new members did, what they thought they were doing and the patterns that evolved.

It is a beautiful, valiant story of youth assuming mature obligations; of devotion to each other and to P.E.O.; of correct procedure always laced with kind understanding; of mistakes and the courage to correct them; of Christian philosophy put to practical use; of vision and the pioneering adventurous spirit needed to make vision a reality. Those early years in Chapter A constitute the mutual background for every chapter that has followed.

On the day that P.E.O. began, the founders created three delightful patterns: the oath with its religious connotations and its touch of secrecy; the name, simple and precious; and the emblem, a beautiful star, symbolic of high ideals and aspirations.

The oath constituted the initiation ceremony that was held in the music room at Iowa Wesleyan, when seven young women became the first seven P.E.O.'s. That ceremony followed a pattern that was simplicity itself, yet because of their dedication the founders made it a cherished memory. It seemed a proper way to commemorate their love and friendship, developed through years of association in church, college, and civic activities. The name pattern was a simple one, also. It wasn't the P.E.O. Lodge or Sorority; it wasn't the P.E.O. Sisterhood; its wasn't even the P.E.O. Society; it was simply P.E.O. The star, as suggested by Alice Coffin, was a natural choice for the emblem. The girls had studied astronomy and had been intrigued by the vastness of the universe thus presented to them. The star symbolized for them their own search for the highest and best things that life could give.

Other patterns followed in rapid succession as P.E.O. developed. The pattern used for the many business meetings that followed was not a simple one. Wisely, and quite naturally, the founders adopted the pattern of literary societies with their excellent parliamentary procedure and demanding literary programs. The girls were not troubled by the proper conduct of business for they were experienced parliamentarians but they frankly admitted that the difficult part in perfecting their society was to determine what they wished to become. Three early business patterns distinctly pertinent to P.E.O. are discussed below. Minutes of Chapter A furnish the documentary source.

Order of Exercises

Besides the usual order of exercises, the girls added a few innovations of their own. Without exception the meetings were opened with prayer, although the office of chaplain did not become an elective one until September 2, 1871. Officers were elected each six months and a simple installation ceremony was used, at least by the second year and probably from the beginning. The constitution and bylaws were customarily read at each meeting. It was the exception when they were not read and that exception was noted in the minutes. Programs were listed near the center of the order of exercises and usually consisted of music and a reading, essay, critical study, or sometimes a debate. For a short time roll call came just before adjournment.

Two unusual items were included in the first recorded order of exercises: Chip Basket and Experience. Those two items were mentioned frequently in the minutes, but specific contents were not recorded. The titles suggest remarks that might be helpful to P.E.O. Chip Basket was discarded after a few years.

Membership

Membership presents one of the intricate patterns in P.E.O. This was certain to be true since the founders stressed their love and friendship as incentives for organizing their society. The original intent was to have only the seven founders as members. That idea was discarded soon when the girls began to vision a permanent society, one that would perpetuate itself. Naturally such a bold step required great care in the choice of new members.

One can only imagine the deep concern of the founders as they discussed prospective members. Two paragraphs from Alice Bird's article, The Eighth P.E.O., are relevant here.

> When the seven met together on the 21st of January and formed the P.E.O. Sisterhood, the call went up from all sides, "What about Carrie Woolson?" For while we seven were dear friends for years, there was another who, if she had been there would have been the eighth P.E.O. She had been with us during three years of college life, and in the fourth

> year her father sent her to Albion College to graduate under his friend, Dr. Jocelyn. But we soon passed it over, and said that as soon as Carrie came home in the spring we would make her a P.E.O. To me Carrie had always been one of the original P.E.O.'s. When she returned in March, six weeks later, she became one of us, but Franc and Mary will nod approvingly when I assert that she was one of the original P.E.O.'s (15, p. 21).

At least sixteen young women had been initiated by the end of 1869. Their names are recorded in the following order in the General Enrollment Book of Supreme Chapter. Although married names are not recorded in the enrollment book, they have been added below to help identify the early members:

8 Ione Ambler
9 Cassie Allen Fink
10 Belle Brooks Lynch
11 Emma Harbin Scott
12 Alice Wilson Mitchell
14 Dora Shaw Cook
15 Ella Killpatrick Dinwiddie
16 Carrie Woolson Darling
17 Cora Baxter Desch
18 Lulu Corkhill Williams
19 Clara Gamage Henderson
20 Pauline Ambler Janes
21 Emma Kauffman Kulp
22 Laura Cleaver Lauder
24 Mattie Fell Sheridan
25 Anna Taylor Schultz

This cannot be considered an accurate listing since documentation of early initiation dates is impossible. The minutes of the first fifteen months of P.E.O. are missing and other early membership data were not carefully recorded. In fact, it was 45 years, 1914, before the present listing of early members was compiled and adopted as the official membership list.

The founders are listed in the following order: Alice Bird, Hattie Briggs, Franc Roads, Mary Allen, Ella Stewart, Suela Pearson and Alice Coffin. This in itself, is a strange pattern. The listing is neither alphabetical, nor according to age, nor according to the charter issued in 1894.

It is also impossible to document any position in the foregoing list of initiates above. The decision to list Ione Ambler eighth and Cassie Allen, sister of Mary Allen, ninth, may well have been made by lot. In their later years, each believed that she was the eighth P.E.O. However, there is little in P.E.O. source material to support either point of view. It is true that two of the founders, Alice Bird and Ella Stewart, recorded in print the belief that Cassie Allen was their first initiate. However, unless some miracle should produce Chapter A's first book of minutes, no one can state accurately that either Ione Ambler or Cassie Allen was the eighth P.E.O. But here again a decision had to be made and so it was. Certain it is that both Ione and Cassie were devoted, competent and cherished P.E.O.'s throughout their long lives.

The 13th P.E.O. is listed as Ida Ferris, although she was not initiated until March 4, 1870. The 23rd on the list is Phillie Lohrman, initiated in 1874. Cora Baxter Desch stated she was initiated with the seven founders as officers of Chapter A; and three other girls, Pauline Ambler, Emma Kauffman and Belle Brooks, were initiated the same day. Yet these four are not recorded together. It is thought that the name of Elizabeth Ogilvie Croft should be included in the list of '69ers. Although a student at the Belden Female Seminary in Mount Pleasant, she was helped out of, and later back into, the dormitory in order that she might be initiated into Chapter A. That unique membership pattern was repeated numerous times before there were enough members for a chapter at the seminary. Elizabeth Ogilvie thought she was initiated before June 1869.

College Group, 1869—Top row: Hattie, Mary, Franc

Names of several girls who attended the seminary but were initiated by Chapter A were not adequately recorded on the membership list of either chapter. This was not recognized for some years and consequently Elizabeth Ogilvie is number 403 on the list of initiates of Chapter A. That would place her incorrectly in the group initiated near 1890. This and the other incidents mentioned illustrate the enormity of the task encountered in later years when officers attempted to record all members in the sequence of their initiations.

In those days it was not uncommon to initiate girls thirteen, fourteen or fifteen years old. Presumably this pattern was established to keep a competitive society from initiating them. Lulu Corkhill was one who was initiated in March 1869, either just before or just after her fifteenth birthday. Lulu was delighted and wore her mother's large shawl to the initiation meeting because she thought it made her look older. Lulu, who became the wife of the Reverend Hammerly B. Williams, was an influential, respected and much loved member throughout her long, useful life.

The minutes of Chapter A reveal another unusual membership pattern. Mothers of coveted, but very young, girls were sometimes contacted about their daughters joining P.E.O. at some future time. It was an expression of interest in the girl, a first contact. Sometimes that approach worked out favorably, sometimes not.

The early pattern of voting on prospective members might be termed fascinating and thorough. For a number of years each member of a chapter was required to vote on every name presented. For those members not present to vote in meetings, an investigating committee was appointed to see each one, collect their votes and report at the next meeting.

The Bloomfield chapter, organized as Chapter F in 1874, had a lovely little wooden ballot box for collecting the votes. It was made of dark wood with brass trimmings, and had a slit in the top where the vote could be inserted. The box could also be locked. Presumably the president kept the brass key in her possession. This ballot box is still in excellent condition and a few years ago was sent to the Executive Office in Mount Pleasant by special messenger. It was placed in the Memory Room of Chapter Original A.

At one time a prospective member of the Bloomfield Chapter, Lola Stansberry Savage, was asked to accompany the investigating committee on its rounds. Lola was fourteen years old at that time. She did not go inside when stops were made so had no idea what was taking place. Years later when the Bloomfield chapter had become Chapter B, Iowa, she wrote to them as follows: "Helen Taylor and Belle Traverse were the ones who took the ballot box around. To their everlasting credit I knew nothing of their mission. Can you imagine anyone being so simple minded now as not to even guess their mission?"

Those early voting patterns may seem quaint and charming to P.E.O.'s of 1969. However it is conceivable that the voting patterns used now (1968), adequate though they are, could be recalled as quaint and charming by P.E.O.'s at the end of the second century.

All seven founders were still in attendance through most of 1871, although five had graduated from Iowa Wesleyan June 16, 1869. Names of founders appeared often in the minutes. Many new members had been initiated and others, carefully selected, were being added at the rate of one every three or four meetings. But in September when college girls arrived on the campus, from six to a dozen names were presented at one time. P.E.O. had become a large society. The minutes for April 16, 1870 recorded the appointment of Sisters Allie Coffin and Ella Stewart as a committee to procure a room in which the society could meet. No meeting place was found at that time but the need was a continuing one for Chapter A, until the college Chapter AJ, later S, Iowa, was organized February 4, 1889. A short time before that a room on the second floor of the Saunders building, on the west side of the town square, was procured and furnished by Chapter A and the chapter met there for many months. During their twentieth anniversary, 1889, Chapter A entertained the convention of Grand Chapter in the new meeting room which they called P.E.O. Hall. Sometimes Chapter AJ met there.

Finance

One of the incredible patterns in early P.E.O. concerned finance. There were no dues until after Grand Chapter was organized in 1883. The method of handling chapter finance was a simple one. When money was needed the girls fined themselves the necessary amount, usually from ten cents to fifty cents each, and a committee was appointed to collect the fines and pay the bills. A little later the word "tax" was used interchangeably with "fine" and many were the taxes levied. If difficulty was encountered in collecting the money, someone suggested that the treasurer "read out the fines." The early P.E.O. financial pattern was as simple as that, and it worked.

Financing and Handling of Pins

Were it not that Chapter A supplied the pins for all P.E.O.'s, this section on finance would have ended with the first paragraph. However financial difficulties sometimes arose because an initiate was careless about paying for her pin and Mr. Crane, though patient, had to be paid.

Mr. Crane, of the Crane Jewelry Store in Mount Pleasant, had secured the first seven pins for the founders. For several years he had various manufacturing firms make pins, usually keeping some in his own store to be engraved as needed. Chapter A received and approved all orders for pins, ordered the engraving, then delivered the pin to the new P.E.O. With each transaction Chapter A became responsible for reimbursing Mr. Crane for the price of one pin. The price of pins varied from $2.50 to $3.00.

In October, 1870, after a troublesome debt at Mr. Crane's had been paid, a bylaw was put into effect requiring an initiation fee of $3.00, the society then to furnish the pin. That bylaw exists to this day (1968) although amounts have varied through the years. So far as known, the wisdom of that financial pattern has never been questioned.

Although finance was a simple process through the early years of P.E.O., it was destined to become a complicated procedure during the latter part of the first century.

Sociality

No history of P.E.O. would be complete if it failed to include the social or entertainment pattern. There were the usual church, college and family events, but members of Chapter A, and later other chapters, created their own P.E.O. entertainments, be they simple parties or elaborate social functions. Few sets of minutes failed to mention parties either past or in the planning stage. There were many socials, simple and sometimes impromptu affairs, with programs and refreshments. There were taffy pulls, sleigh rides, picnics, oyster suppers, dinner parties, receptions, banquets, the strawberry party for parents, the Calico Party, the elaborate Sidereal Soiree and many, many more.

Parties were carefully planned. Committees were appointed, personnel, finance and refreshments discussed and necessary arrangements made. It is all there in the minutes of Chapter A, and what a treasure that is.

The second set of minutes, April 30, 1870, reveals plans for a picnic in Rome, a tiny town seven miles west of Mount Pleasant. The sisters at the seminary, Chapter B, were to be invited. But plans did not develop immediately. It was not until July 30 that the picnic date was set for the "next Thursday" and Alice Coffin and Pauline Ambler appointed to arrange for a bus. Then that date had to be changed but a motion carried August 13 for a called meeting to make arrangements for the picnic. Later minutes do not report on the picnic. It may or may not have been held.

Then came the first real party, the elegant Sidereal Soiree. Plans were launched by motion, November 5, 1870, to have an annual reunion of P.E.O.'s sometime between Christmas and New Year's. Alice Bird likened that reunion to a housewarming: "Thus when we girls had completed our seven-room house, and hung out the star for a lantern, we wished to place a climax on the whole by having a grand party" (10, Jan. 1923, p. 12).

Elaborate parties require elaborate plans, and minutes through November and December record those plans in some detail. A grand name had to be chosen for such a grand party. Many of the names discussed reflected Latin, French or astronomy. It was Mame Allen (Mary) who finally suggested Sidereal Soiree, and so the party was named. One senses the pride with which the following committees must have functioned: Tickets—Cassie and Mame Allen, tickets to be sold to members at $2.00 each; Arranging Names—Carrie Potter and Ida Ferris; Programme—Ella Killpatrick and Emma Schwenker; Committee to bring new member, Miss Mellon—Sue Pearson; Toasts—Cassie Allen and Franc Roads. Sue Pearson and Erma Schwenker appointed later to assist with toasts. There must have been a committee on invitations and one to make arrangements at the Brazelton Hotel, but they are not named. Alice Bird was president of Chapter A, Emma Schwenker, recording secretary, and Mary Allen, treasurer.

Printed invitations were ordered—simple white cards with a gold star near the top on which were the letters P.E.O. Under the star printed in script:

P.E.O.

The pleasure of your company
is requested at the
Sidereal Soiree of
THE P.E.O.
to be guests at
the Brazelton Hotel,
December 26, 1870.

One of those cards is on display in one of the historical cases in the Memorial Building at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. It was presented to P.E.O. by Lulu Corkhill Williams when Supreme Chapter met in

Chicago in 1929, Lulu having received it from Mrs. Alice Corkhill Weaver.

Guests were carefully selected, with each P.E.O. suggesting one name. A committee arranged the names and presented them to the chapter for approval. One can only guess at the dire consequences that might have resulted had a name been rejected. Fortunately all were approved, and invitations were sent to the gentlemen, in the name of the Society, and each was assigned as escort to the young woman who had suggested his name. Such a unique pattern for arranging dates reflected great dignity and that was important. Alice Bird described the escorts of the founders:

> The most important item was the selection of the gentlemen whom we would invite to this grand party—for they must be grand gentlemen, as indeed they were. I am not certain about all, but I imagine the initials of the one Franc Roads asked were S. E. [Simon Elliott]; those of Mary Allen's escort were C. L. S. [Charles L. Stafford]; Allie Coffin asked Will Pearson; Ella Stewart invited Dillon Payne; Sue Pearson asked a dozen probably—she wouldn't know where to stop; and Hattie Briggs maybe asked Robert Burton.
>
> I told my father I thought of asking Mr. Babb [Washington Irving Babb]. "Well," said he, "Babb's been through the Civil War, and is old enough to have a little sense. You can go with him" (10, Jan. 1923, p. 12).

It was decided that each P.E.O. should wear whatever she liked remembering, of course, to wear her P.E.O. pin. Numerous stories tell of the founders wearing the colorful tarlatan dresses to the party, although the dresses had been made for Ruthean Southern Exhibition held during commencement week in June, 1869. (See chapter five for the story of the tarlatan dresses.)

A tax of 15¢ per member was collected to pay for the invitations, and Carrie Potter and Belle Brooks were appointed to collect the tax; Mr. Charles Stafford, whom Mary Allen married the following year, was invited to ask the blessing; the party began at 7 1/2 p.m. and ended at 12 o'clock; Colonel Root of the Brazelton Hotel was to be paid beforehand; and tickets were to be given to Mrs. Root in the dressing room.

It is not known exactly how many attended the party, but 100 tickets had been ordered. There were many P.E.O.'s by that time—16 initiates in 1869 and a similar number in 1870—so the party was not a small one. Included were the few members at the Seminary who, up to that time, had been initiated by Chapter A.

There were toasts arranged by Cassie Allen and Franc Roads and read at the party by Cassie Allen. The exact program planned by Ella Killpatrick and Emma Schwenker cannot be documented, but Alice Bird described the type of programs and dinner menu that would have been appropriate for that time:

> The next important question was: What shall we order for our supper. I have no menu card—we didn't have such things then—but instinctive recollection would suggest roast turkey, escalloped oysters, mashed potatoes, cole slaw (we had no salads then), and for dessert marble cake and ice cream. The ice cream was quickly brought from Wall Fluke's ice cream saloon, [sic] for packing ice cream in ice for delivery was unheard of then.
>
> Then came the literary program for the feast. Toasts were for old people so I imagine Mary Allen read an essay on "The Beauties of Nature"; Franc Roads one on "The Emancipation of Women;" then Allie Briggs and Ella Stewart played an instrumental duet; where they crossed hands, one going to the north and one to the south—oh how fine it was. Then Alice Coffin and Ella Stewart sang one of their famous duets, "In the Starlight." Sue and I then stepped out, hand in hand, and "spoke a piece"—maybe "Beautiful Snow" or "The Charge of the Light Brigade" or perhaps "Curfew Shall not Ring Tonight." In this piece we used to grasp an imaginary bell clapper, frantically, and swing out over an imaginary audience (10, Jan. 1923, p. 12).

At the time the Sidereal Soiree was planned, mention was made of making it an annual affair. Consequently plans were launched November 25, 1871, to hold the second Soiree at the Brazelton Hotel. Franc Roads and Abbie Wilson were appointed to see "Colonel Crab and Lady" at the Brazelton. Other necessary committees were appointed but for some reason, plans went awry and the Soiree was not held that year.

Some time within that year, 1871, another dinner party at the Brazelton is supposed to have been held. The story appeared in The P.E.O. Record, March, 1927, and was built around the list of P.E.O.'s in attendance. Emma Schwenker and Carrie Woolson are credited with planning the party and Emma, who collected the money, still had the list of names. No mention of such a party is recorded in the minutes so it may have been held during the summer of 1871.

A social, to which gentlemen were invited, was held February 14, 1872. Another party was held at the Harlan House in April.

For sheer beauty and individuality the Calico Party must have been 'camp' for 1873. How Cora Baxter's large home must have reverberated the party sounds; and how lovely the girls must have looked in their fresh, colorful, calico dresses!

Invitations were printed on oblongs of black and white striped calico, one-fourth inch stripes. The following lines were printed on the white stripes:

The P.E.O. Sisterhood
presents compliments for
Thursday Evening, Jan. 30,
at half past six o'clock,
at the home of Cora Baxter.
Ladies to appear in calico

Refreshments at eight o'clock

If the hours seem strange, there was good reason. Since all four organized groups on the campus were involved, the P.E.O.'s thought it wise to get permission from President Wheeler to have the party. Approval was obtained by Pauline Ambler and Lillie Bartlett, provided the party would start at 6 1/2 o'clock with supper at eight.

It was a large party; at one point in the planning fifty more invitations were ordered. A reception must have occupied the early part of the evening, with Cora Baxter, Rosa Van Tress, Lizzie Davidson, and Belle Brooks serving as a reception committee.

Little is known about the program except the suggestion that those P.E.O.'s who play in public should be prepared and should not refuse if called upon. Of course there were the inevitable toasts, probably given during the supper hour. It was an oyster supper with all of the trimmings, and with confections and nuts added for good measure. There were toasts from representatives of the I.C. Society—seven had been invited—the Betas, the Phi Delts, and one each from Chapter A and Chapter B of P.E.O. Ella Stewart and Rosa Van Tress arranged for the toasts. In those days the preparation and delivery of toasts constituted a highly developed art form. Seldom were they overlooked at a party where they might appropriately be used.

The party was financed, as usual, by taxing each member a specified amount. Lillie Bartlett and Pauline Ambler were appointed to determine the amount needed; Jennie Potter, Florence Leach and Flora Baugh to collect the money.

In October of the same year, 1873, a banquet was held at the Ambler home diagonally across the street from the Harlan House. Many P.E.O. parties and meetings were held in that beautiful home through the years that followed. The house still stands (1967) as a fine example of mid-nineteenth century architecture.

One of the largest and most elaborate P.E.O. parties of all time was the one held at the Leissenring home in June, 1880. Ella Avery Leissenring's initiation is recorded in the first available minutes of Chapter A, April 16, 1870. The party was sometimes spoken of as the Strawberry Party since Mrs. Leissenring had planned to invite the P.E.O.'s for a party during strawberry time anyway. It was decided, "with unusual enthusiasm," to invite the parents of P.E.O.'s, and a few from other societies: the I.C.'s and the A.B.C.'s. Two hundred invitations were ordered from the Dreka Company in Philadelphia.

Three men were hired as waiters. The menu included roast turkey, sliced tongue, pickles, buns, angel food cake, ice cream—neapolitan—strawberries, coffee and iced tea. The party was a huge success even though strawberries were off the market and oranges were substituted.

Education and Philanthropy

Education and philanthropy are two structural patterns that have been a part of P.E.O. since its beginning. Different as they are, a certain interrelation existed between these two patterns as they developed through P.E.O. channels. Eventually, and quite naturally, it was education that became the chief philanthropy of P.E.O.

The first laws of P.E.O. stressed education. True it was called general improvement, but general improvement, or self improvement as we think of it, is a form of education. The object of the society, as outlined in the first constitution, Article 2nd, Sec. 1st, might almost be called P.E.O.'s first project:

> The Object of this Society shall be general improvement, which shall comprehend more especially.
>
> 1st Improvement in charity toward and interest in each other as P.E.O.'s.
>
> 2nd Improvement in our Charity toward and interest in all with whom we associate.
>
> 3rd Improvement in our manners at home and in society.
>
> 4th Improvement in our minds by the pursuing of such books and pamphlets in and out of society as shall be proper for P.E.O.'s.

Because of their inheritance it was natural for early P.E.O.'s to emphasize the educational pattern. P.E.O. was born on a college campus and the founders were education minded. By experience they were students at Iowa Wesleyan, five of them seniors, and college life was the focal point of their activities. Education was the thing they knew best. The personnel of Chapter A and other early chapters were chosen from among college students for several years. Programs conveyed a distinct educational aspect and P.E.O.'s were invited to participate in many functions of an educational nature. Much more will be recorded about education in later chapters of this book.

It was inevitable that the founders and their contemporaries should also develop a keen spiritual awareness and a deep social consciousness. That was part of their heritage. They constantly sought benevolent activities that they might enter into, not only because they recognized the needs about them, but also because of their own need for expression in something greater than themselves—something that might benefit mankind.

Hundreds of local projects of an altruistic nature were successfully carried out by members of early P.E.O. chapters. Libraries became a favorite field of endeavor. Many gifts of money, books and services were noted in minutes and in the White History. Chapter A had sidewalks laid to the city cemetery. Later they had a beautiful fountain built on the town square. Their first recorded project was to pay for shingles to put a new roof on the home of a needy family. Similar projects were repeated in other chapters.

Hospitals in many localities received help from various chapters, and sometimes hospital rooms were furnished by P.E.O.'s. Orphan's homes and homes for the aged received attention. The kindergarten movement was promoted in Washington, Iowa, and elsewhere. Kindergarten rooms were furnished and occasionally needy children were maintained through the school year. Flood and cyclone victims received help as did famine sufferers in Russia. There were countless gifts of food and clothing, some of the clothing being made by the girls themselves. A flag was presented to a company of state militia. A bandstand and comfortable benches were furnished for a park in Leon, Iowa. Occasionally a P.E.O. flowerbed appeared in a park or on a campus.

In the fall of 1880 members of Chapter A planned and executed a festival, the proceeds being used for charitable purposes. It was held in a hall in the business district. Admission tickets and supper tickets were sold. There was a supper table, a candy table, a mush and milk table and perhaps several others. There was also a program at which Alice Bird Babb presided. At Mrs. Babb's suggestion, a speech contest was held and the audience vote decided the winner.

This is only a suggestion of the many, many projects undertaken by early chapters. It shows how altruistically oriented those young women were. Occasionally there was talk of a unified project but none materialized until the Educational Fund was established in 1907.

Truly there are many great patterns in P.E.O. But the loveliest pattern of all, and the most elusive, is the Spirit of P.E.O. — that spirit which lends warmth and glow and shine to every phase of P.E.O. One could no more describe it than he could describe silence or catch sunlight in his hands. Yet every P.E.O. knows what it is. Each interprets it in the light of her own personality and capacity. It is present wherever two P.E.O.'s meet but even when alone a true P.E.O. carries that spirit in her heart.

7

Expansion

Expansion was a unique phase in the development of P.E.O. It was sparked by college members who were loath to part with P.E.O. when they left Mount Pleasant.

Organization of new chapters was not a complicated procedure. Choice of personnel was of first importance but other requirements were few. As a result, methods of organizing early chapters differed greatly. Initiation was the only set pattern in organization. It consisted of administering the oath—a simple pledge of secrecy—and reading the constitution and bylaws to each initiate.

Any P.E.O. could organize, or form a chapter with the approval of Chapter A, and with the aid of the constitution and bylaws copied into a small notebook by the corresponding secretary of Chapter A. In addition, she had to be able to transport herself to the place of organization, which sometimes created a major problem. Although southeastern Iowa was laced with a network of railroads, there were many times when P.E.O.'s traveled long distances by horse and buggy to reach a place of organization. Twenty-five miles was not an uncommon distance.

Transportation problems were simplified if a girl had been initiated into Chapter A or Chapter B while attending Iowa Wesleyan or the seminary in Mount Pleasant. Then, if such a girl wished to organize a chapter, in her hometown, or wherever she happened to be after graduation, Chapter A might send permission and a copy of the constitution and bylaws by mail, and the P.E.O. was free to proceed with the organization. The same pattern also applied to P.E.O.'s from other chapters who moved from place to place and wished to carry P.E.O. with them.

Another unique method of organization was for Chapter A to bring a prospective member to Mount Pleasant, from a town where a chapter was being contemplated, initiate her, then give a copy of the constitution and bylaws and permission to go back home and organize her chapter. That process was usually hastened by voting on the name, and initiating the young woman at the same meeting, which was easily done since all authority was vested in Chapter A. Rules were still in the formative stage and could be waived if necessary. The newly initiated P.E.O. might transfer to the new chapter at the time of its organization.

Members of Chapter A sometimes sent their own representative to assist with an organization, and taxed themselves the necessary amount to defray expenses. In later years, existing chapters often assumed the responsibility of organizing new groups.

But expansion came slowly and some of the early chapters were short-lived. P.E.O. was fourteen years old when Grand Chapter was organized as the central governing body in 1883. Only six chapters participated in the organization: A, 2nd B, C, F, I and J. Two other chapters, D and 2nd H, were far from active though not formally disbanded. Four other known chapters, 1st B, E, G and the Omaha Chapter – possibly 1st H – had been disbanded.

They comprised all of P.E.O. and, except for Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois, and the little society in Omaha, Nebraska, all chapters were located in southeastern Iowa. The survival of P.E.O. at that early stage could be termed a miracle.

There were those who visioned greatness for P.E.O., who dared to dream of extending its boundaries and of carrying the beautiful idea of P.E.O. to other states, perhaps even to the farthest corners of this great land. So Grand Chapter was organized as the first step, followed quickly by expansion into neighboring states. Eventually P.E.O. did find its way into every state and became international by crossing the border into Canada.

Let it be remembered here that this expansion and all P.E.O. growth that has followed were brought about through the vision, the courage, the devotion, and the enthusiasm of members in the first dozen chapters; members who loved and worked for P.E.O. and cherished its ideals in their hearts.

Early Chapters – Original Lettering

In the beginning chapters were lettered consecutively, regardless of state, some letters being used several times as shown in the accompanying chart. That system continued until after Grand Chapter was organized in 1883, and after State Grand Chapters became a reality: Nebraska, April 2, 1890, and Iowa, October 13, 1893. After a state chapter was formed, local chapters within the state were relettered alphabetically, according to organization dates.

The convention minutes of Grand Chapter from 1883 to 1895 furnish an excellent documentary source of many of the early chapters. The White History printed in 1903, The Story of P.E.O., and the History of P.E.O. in Iowa, printed in 1951, furnish good source material. Published histories of P.E.O. in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and New Jersey, and the historical pamphlet from California trace the stories of early chapters in those states. Correspondence from Nebraska, Indiana, Michigan, and Arkansas add others.

The following chart is an attempt to list all chapters organized before relettering was adopted by Grand Chapter in 1890 and put into practice during the next four years. Nebraska chapters were relettered late in 1890 after the organization of Nebraska Grand Chapter in April, and by authority of the Grand Chapter granted October 16, 1890. "Motion carried that as States are set aside their chapters be lettered A, B, C, D, etc., naming the State."

LETTERING OF EARLY CHAPTERS

Original Lettering	Town and State	Date of Organization	New Lettering	Date Disbanded
A	Mount Pleasant, Iowa	Jan. 21, 1869	A, Iowa	
1st B	Mount Pleasant, Iowa	1869 or 1870		1879
2nd B	Fairfield, Iowa	Sept. 12, 1881	C, Iowa	
		Sept. 10, Date on Charter		
1st C	Jacksonville, Illinois	Jan. 21, 1871		1888 or 1889
2nd C	Leon, Iowa	Jan. 31, 1890	W, Iowa	
D	Oskaloosa, Iowa	1873		
		Inactive 1882		
		Reorganized Oct. 4, 1884		1889 or 1890
1st E	Muscatine, Iowa	1873		1876 or 1877
2nd E	Washington, D.C.	Apr. 5, 1887		
		Inactive 1892		1893
3rd E	Brooklyn, Iowa	Aug. 11, 1893	AK, Iowa	
F	Bloomfield, Iowa	Dec. 4, 1874	B, Iowa	
1st G	Troy, Iowa	1875		1879 ?
2nd G	Farmington, Iowa	Oct. 1, 1887	O, Iowa	
1st H	Omaha, Nebr.	1873 or 1874		1879 or 1880
	If letter assigned at 1876 convention, H would have been the next letter in sequence.			
2nd H	Burlington, Iowa	Oct. 1881		1884 ?
3rd H	Council Bluffs, Iowa	1887		1890 ?
4th H	Hopkins, Mo.	Oct. 1890	D, Mo.	1893
I	Centerville, Iowa	Sept. 8, 1882	D, Iowa	
J	Iowa City, Iowa	Mar. 8, 1883	E, Iowa	
1st K	Jacksonville, Illinois	1883		1884 ?
2nd K	Norfolk, Nebr.	Sept. 27, 1887?	C, Nebr.(1890)	May, 1892
3rd K	Bonaparte, Iowa	Sept. 1, 1891	AB, Iowa	
1st L	Bethany, Mo.	Oct. 1, 1887		1888
2nd L	Des Moines, Iowa	Jan. 3, 1890	V, Iowa	
M	Moulton, Iowa	Apr. 12, 1884	F, Iowa	
N	Ottumwa, Iowa	May 27, 1884	G, Iowa	
O	Albia, Iowa	Aug. 30, 1884	H, Iowa	

LETTERING OF EARLY CHAPTERS (continued)

Original Lettering	Town and State	Date of Organization	New Lettering	Disbanded
P	Keosauqua, Iowa	Dec. 26, 1884	I, Iowa	
Q	Washington, Iowa	Feb. 6, 1885	J, Iowa	
1st R	York, Nebr.	Feb. 14, 1885	A, Nebr.(1890)	
2nd R	Hampton, Iowa	Sept. 28, 1891	AC, Iowa	
S	Osceola, Iowa	Aug. 1, 1885	K, Iowa	
1st T	Grinnell, Iowa	Aug. 1885		Oct. 1888
2nd T	What Cheer, Iowa	July 12, 1890	Y, Iowa	
U	Thorntown, Ind.	Mar. 26, 1886	A, Ind.	
1st V	Fairfield, Nebr.	Mar. 31, 1886	B, Nebr.(1890)	Mar. 1893?
2nd V	LaCrosse, Kansas	Dec. 18, 1891	B, Kans.	1899
W	Unionville, Mo.	May 8, 1886	A. Mo.	
X	Sigourney, Iowa	June 26, 1886	L, Iowa	
Y	Knoxville, Iowa	Aug. 31, 1886	M, Iowa	
Z	Chariton, Iowa	Feb. 19, 1887	N, Iowa	
AA	Burlington, Iowa	Nov. 29, 1887	P, Iowa	
AB	Meade, Kansas	Mar. 5, 1888	A, Kans.	
AC	Des Moines, Iowa	Apr. 13, 1888	Q, Iowa	
AD	Knightstown, Ind.	May 1, 1888		?
AE	Lebanon, Ind.	Aug. 31, 1888		Oct. 11, 1893
AF	Rock Rapids, Iowa	July, 1888		1889
	Reorganized	Nov. 27, 1892?	AI, Iowa	1903
AG	Cameron, Mo.	Oct. 12, 1888	B, Mo.	1895
AH	Jerseyville, Illinois	Aug. 31, 1888		Oct. 11, 1893
AI	Cedar Falls, Iowa	Jan. 26, 1889	R, Iowa	
AJ	Mount Pleasant, Iowa College Chapter	Feb. 4, 1889	S, Iowa	1903
AK	Oceanside, Calif.	Jan. 3, 1888	A, Calif.	1891 or 1892
AL	Superior, Nebr.	Apr. 10, 1889	D, Nebr.(1890)	April 1909
AM	Garden Grove, Iowa	May 4, 1889	T, Iowa	
1st AN	Omaha, Nebr.	June 1, 1889	E, Nebr.(1890)	
2nd AN	Lyons, Kansas	Dec. 21, 1891	C, Kans.	
AO	Keokuk, Iowa	Sept. 2, 1889	U, Iowa	
1st AP	Plattsmouth, Nebr.	Sept. 7, 1889 Sept. 6, Date on Charter	F, Nebr.(1890)	
2nd AP	Milton, Iowa	Mar. 9, 1892	AD, Iowa	
1st AQ	Hastings, Nebr.	Oct. 2, 1889	G, Nebr.(1890)	
2nd AQ	Clarinda, Iowa	May 3, 1892	AE, Iowa	
1st AR	Holdrege, Nebr.	Dec. 14, 1889	H, Nebr.(1890)	
2nd AR	Atlantic, Iowa	June 6, 1892	AF, Iowa	
AS	Wahoo, Nebr.	Jan. 24, 1890	I, Nebr.(1890)	
AT	Waterloo, Iowa	Oct, 11, 1890	Z, Iowa	
AU	Winterset, Iowa	Aug. 24, 1892	AG, Iowa	
AV	Oskaloosa, Iowa	June 8, 1890 June 9 on Charter	X, Iowa	
AW	Detroit, Mich.	Oct. 8, 1890	A, Mich.	
AX	West Liberty, Iowa	Sept. 2, 1892	AH, Iowa	
AY	Ames, Iowa	Aug. 3, 1891	AA, Iowa	
AZ	Eureka Springs, Ark.	Feb. 15, 1892	A, Ark.	
BA	Vinton, Iowa No statistics available, but minutes of 1893 convention of Grand Chapter, p. 3, list a late enrolled delegate from Chapter BA, Vinton, Iowa. The chapter is also mentioned in the White History, p. 90.			
BB	BB may have been the letters earmarked for the Brooklyn, Iowa chapter. Dates would have been in proper sequence. But since Chapter E, Washington, D. C. was disbanded about that time,			

Original Lettering	Town and State	Date of Organization	New Lettering	Date Disbanded
	August 11, 1893, the letter E was reassigned to Brooklyn by Grand Chapter. BB may have designated the chapter at Glenwood, Missouri.			
BC	New Sharon, Iowa	Aug. 29, 1893	AL, Iowa	
BD	Nevada, Iowa	Sept. 22, 1893	AM, Iowa	
BE	Humeston, Iowa	Sept. 26, 1893	AN, Iowa	
	Organized Under State Lettering (so far as known)			
B, Calif.	Escondido, Calif.	Oct. 29, 1890		
B, Mo.	Memphis, Mo.	Aug. 24, 1891	C, Mo.	
J, Nebr.	Nelson, Nebr.	Sept. 1, 1891		
? Mo.	Glenwood, Mo.			
	Listed on 1892 P.E.O. Records, April to November, but without a letter. It could have been Chapter BB.			
C, Calif.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Aug. 20, 1892		

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(1890) As used on chart above.

Nebraska Grand Chapter was organized April 2, 1890. Nebraska chapters then relettered according to state lettering.

Iowa was the second state chapter organized—October 13, 1893. All chapters then relettered according to their own state lettering.

Organization of Early Chapters

Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
Organized January 21, 1869

The organization of Chapter A occurred simultaneously with the founding of P.E.O., January 21, 1869, in the music room of Iowa Wesleyan University. It is doubtful that the designation 'Chapter A' was even mentioned that first day but it did come into use very soon. The use of the word 'chapter' is mentioned in the earliest available minutes of Chapter A, April 16, 1870.

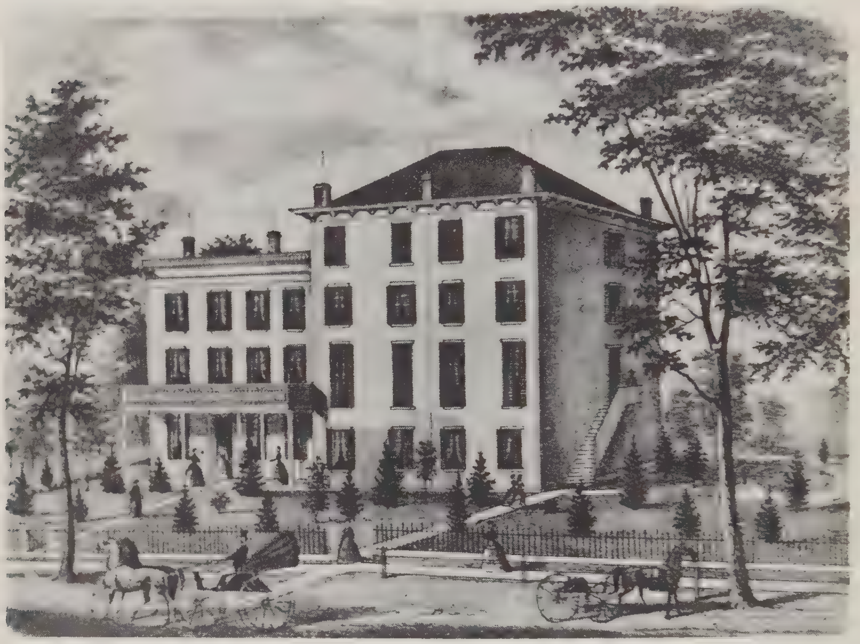
The founders, and hence the charter members of Chapter A, were Mary Allen, Alice Bird, Harriet (Hattie) Briggs, Alice Coffin, Suela Pearson, Franc Roads, and Ella Stewart.

The time was right for women, as well as men, to group themselves together and work as a unit for some cherished goal. It was natural that the finger of organization should touch the seven founders. They were already a working unit, having been drawn together by their long association, their love, and their similarity of ideas and ideals.

The story of the organization of Chapter A is given in chapters one and three of this volume. Early minutes of Chapter A have furnished an authentic documentary source for much of the material used covering the early years of P.E.O.

Chapter B, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
Belden's Female Seminary
No known date for organization

The organization of Chapter B was like no other for there was no formal organization. It just grew as an extension of Chapter A. If members of Chapter A wanted a girl at the Seminary, they took her to one of their meetings and initiated her.



Belden's Female Seminary

At times, that was a complicated procedure for the girls at the Seminary had less freedom than those at Iowa Wesleyan. For example: It was necessary for some of the girls from Chapter A to help Elizabeth Ogilvie—listed as an initiate of 1869—to slip away from the Seminary to be initiated. It was also necessary for them to help in the more difficult task of getting her back into the dormitory (10, Nov. 1935, p. 8). As late as 1874, Nellie Bishop, and Clara Pitzer, students at the Seminary, slipped away from a church social at the town hall, eluding the preceptress, and were initiated into Chapter A (10, Mar. 1927, p. 27).

Such methods must have been repeated numerous times before there were enough members at the Seminary for them to have their own chapter. Chapter B did exist by spring of 1871. Nellie Hays tells of her initiation at that time.

> It was in a room occupied by Effie Hoffman (Rogers)...The room was small and we girls were seated upon the edge of the bed. Of course there were not chairs enough to accommodate five or six girls. I was scarcely 17 years old...Never can I forget the thrill that came over me when Effie placed the star upon my left shoulder (10, Aug. 1927, p. 13).

There was yet another method of initiating girls for Chapter B—a third and last method which continued for several years. Numerous items in the minutes of Chapter A state that the president or another member of the chapter had gone to the Seminary to initiate some girl into P.E.O.

Thus the Seminary chapter came to be. No chapter records remain. Some say they were lost in a fire, but in the minutes of the 1889 convention of Grand Chapter we find this item: "The president stated that she had secured the Old Seminary book of ceremonies, and handed it over to be kept with the papers." However, the location of the book is now unknown.

The membership book in the executive office records the name and year of initiation for all known members of Chapter B. Initiates of 1870-71 were Nellie Hays, Ollie Downing, Mollie Dungan, Lou C. Burton, Mabel Davidson, Kate Parks, Laura Black, Dora Jones, Belle Denny, Laura Kehmer, Etta Burford (or Heraford), Carnie Angle, Ruth Robshaw, Lillian Davis, Flora Purdy, and Agnes Phillips. In 1872 Bella and Flora Chalfant were initiated. None is correctly called a charter member, but they were certainly early members.

From November 1869 to 1871 a chapter of I.C. Sorosis existed at the Seminary. Rivalry was keen between I.C. and P.E.O. just as it was at Iowa Wesleyan.

Mr. Belden, in charge of the Seminary, did not hesitate to use disciplinary measures to keep both groups under control. At one time he collected the stars and the arrows and deposited them in the bank vault until the girls could get along together.

There is no documentation of the number of pins collected, but legend suggests that it was not one hundred per cent. Legend also suggests that certain pins decorated the underclothing of their owners for a time.

There was a close tie between Chapters A and B. After Chapter B was disbanded in 1879, when the Seminary closed, Chapter A assimilated many of the members so they might be transferred to other chapters or attend meetings in Mount Pleasant.

Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois
Organized January 21, 1871

Chapter C, the first P.E.O. chapter outside of Iowa, was organized by Ollie H. Downing at Jacksonville, Illinois, January 21, 1871. Ollie had attended Belden's Female Seminary in Mount Pleasant the year before, and in the spring of 1870 had been initiated into P.E.O. At that early date, the initiation probably occurred at a meeting of Chapter A, although the P.E.O.'s at the Seminary were soon known as Chapter B.

During the school year 1870-71, Ollie attended the Jacksonville Female Academy, sometimes called the Presbyterian Academy for

Women. Here she told certain classmates about the little society in Iowa called P.E.O. They were fascinated, and soon permission was granted by Chapter A for Ollie to form the new society. Since it was the third chapter, it was known as Chapter C. The following quotation is from an article by Ida Scott Taylor McKinney, an early member of Chapter C, though not a charter member.

> The ten charter members all belonged to the junior class of the Presbyterian Academy for Women, and were all boarding pupils, save one. Their names were Mary K. French, Mollie Hodge, Fannie Keener, Lizzie May Moore, Clara McMurty, Alice B. Ramsay, Anna Scovel, M. Lou Taylor, Leona Wells, and Ollie H. Downing.
>
> For the next two years the chapter grew in interest and enthusiasm, increasing steadily in numbers, many of the new members living in town, so that it was thought best to hold the meetings in the homes, rather than in the seminary.
>
> As Jacksonville was a "City of Schools" there was plenty of desirable material to choose from, and the Illinois Womans' College and Young Ladies Athaeneum and Conservatory furnished several valuable members who added strength and enthusiasm to the chapter.
>
> Although nearly all of the members of the old Jacksonville chapter were young school girls at the time of their initiation, they seemed fully to realize the import of P.E.O. and gather strength and inspiration from its aims and objects...the members were more closely drawn together as the years passed. It was from no lack of interest in or loyalty to P.E.O. that Chapter C gave up its charter after an existence of some seventeen years, but merely through a chain of circumstances that made it seem absolutely necessary at the time, though it was supposed that the meetings would be resumed later on (10, Dec. 1926, p. 19).

The tragic illness of the president was in large measure responsible for Chapter C's decision to surrender its charter. Members of Chapter C had been extremely active, as verified in the minutes of Chapter A. They carried on an active correspondence. They were interested in the business of P.E.O. and at one time negotiated with a jeweler in Jacksonville to manufacture the P.E.O. pins. They sent delegates to early conventions and later helped to make Grand Chapter a reality.

Chapter D, Oskaloosa, Iowa
Organized March or April, 1873

Effie Hoffman, who had been a very active P.E.O. in the Seminary chapter at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, returned to her home in Oskaloosa in 1872 or 1873. By late March or early April, 1873, Effie had organized the fourth chapter of P.E.O., Chapter D, in Oskaloosa.

That fact is verified by the minutes of Chapter A, April 19, 1873 and May 3, 1873. No mention is made of permission being granted by Chapter A for the organization of Chapter D, but at least Effie is said to have notified them of this happy occasion (10, Jan. 1963, p. 8). Charter members of Chapter D are listed in Effie's Catalogue of P.E.O.'s as: Mrs. Joe William Blanchard, Miss Emma Kilbach, Miss Alice Williams Bennett, Miss Mary L. Loring, Miss Ella Crickett, Miss Leoni McMillen, Mrs. Effie Rogers. In the catalogue, printed in 1887, married names were used when known. Elizabeth Ogilvie Croft, initiated by Chapter A in 1869 for the seminary chapter, was a member of Chapter D for a time, although she is not listed as a charter member.

It would be almost impossible to write of P.E.O. in Oskaloosa without repeatedly mentioning Effie Hoffman. Not only was she the guiding light, she was also the motivating force.

A letter from Oskaloosa was read in Chapter A, December 26, 1873, stating that four sisters would attend the convention in Mount Pleasant the following week. That was the very first convention of P.E.O. It was Effie who reported for her chapter at the convention and also gave the response to the welcome extended by Chapter A. For a time, Chapter D participated fully in P.E.O. activities.

But, chapter interest declined during the four years of Effie's marriage and absence from Oskaloosa, 1880 to 1884. After the death of Effie's son and her husband, Mr. John Rogers, Effie and her small daughter returned to Oskaloosa. On October 4, 1884, Chapter D was reorganized. There followed several active years of chapter life. It was during that time that Effie assumed great responsibility for Grand Chapter: president three years, first editor of The P.E.O. Record, publisher of the P.E.O. Catalogue, and member of numerous committees. Again Chapter D ceased to function and was disbanded in 1889 or 1890.

However, that did not end P.E.O. in Oskaloosa. On June 9, 1890, Effie Rogers again organized a chapter there: Chapter AV which became Chapter X, Iowa, and is still an active chapter.

Chapter E, Muscatine, Iowa
Organized 1873

Little is known about the organization of Chapter E, Muscatine, Iowa. On May 3, 1873, Chapter A granted permission for Fannie Walters to form a chapter in Muscatine. On November 28, 1874, the corresponding secretary of Chapter A reported that she had written to Muscatine and that they had decided to send Nellie Bishop as a delegate to the first convention of P.E.O. which was to be held in Mount Pleasant January 5, 1875. Nellie Bishop had been initiated by Chapter A early in 1874 while she was a student at the seminary.

Miss Bishop attended the convention and, although she did not report on Chapter E, the convention delegates were favored with a very beautiful piece of music from Miss Nellie Bishop. She was also appointed to represent her chapter by sending a correct list of members of Chapter E, to be printed in the proposed catalogue of P.E.O. members.

There is no available list of charter members, nor is there authentic information of chapter activities. The chapter existed only a few years then was disbanded, probably in 1876 or 1877.

Chapter F, Bloomfield, Iowa
Organized December 4, 1874

It was while Belle Brooks was president of Chapter A that her cousin, Maudie Weaver, of Bloomfield was initiated into Chapter A, which event soon resulted in the organization of Chapter F at Bloomfield, Iowa. This is the way it happened.

On Saturday, November 21, 1874, the P.E.O.'s met in called meeting with Belle Brooks. The object of the meeting was to consider the name of Maudie Weaver, of Bloomfield. So, the bylaw was waived and the chapter voted to initiate Miss Weaver.

Then plans were made to send two members to Bloomfield, to help form a chapter there. Members of Chapter A were to be taxed '35 cents each' to help pay the expenses of the trip, and a committee was appointed to collect the tax.

Maude Weaver

At that point in the meeting it was voted to initiate Miss Weaver immediately. She just happened to be available, so Chapter A proceeded with the initiation. A week later at the regular meeting of Chapter A, it was voted to send one delegate to Bloomfield rather than two and to tax each member '20 cents in place of 35 cents'.

By December 4, 1874, Maudie had arrangements made and Belle Brooks organized Chapter F in the home of General J. B. Weaver. Maudie transferred to the new chapter so the charter members were: Maude Weaver (Sullenberger), Henrietta Trimble (Uray), Nellie Palmer (Edwards), Nannie Leach (Trimble), Ella Hagan (Payne), and Kate Axline (Ellis). They were girls from the southern Iowa Normal Institute. Kate Axline was only fifteen years old at the time and her father was president of the institute.

Weaver Home, Bloomfield, Iowa

Chapter F became Chapter B, Iowa, when chapters were relettered according to states. By that time Chapter B at the Seminary in Mount Pleasant; Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois; Chapter D, Oskaloosa; and Chapter E, Muscatine, had been disbanded. The Bloomfield chapter, being next to the oldest chapter in Iowa, became Chapter B. Through almost a century it has been one of the strong, active, dependable chapters in P.E.O.

Chapter G, Troy, Iowa
Organized 1875

Early in the year of 1875 activity was started to organize a society at Troy. A letter from Rosa Weatherby in which she referred to the matter was read in Chapter A, February 20, 1875.

However it was "Kittie Edwards, who after leaving the Seminary at Jacksonville, Illinois, where she was initiated in 1874, organized Chapter G at her home in Troy, Iowa," (10, Dec. 1939, p. 22). That would have been in 1875, although the exact date is not known.

A letter from Kittie Edwards was read in Chapter A October 16, 1875. Kittie inquired when and where the fall convention was to be. The convention was postponed until the following spring. Official instructions about it were sent by Chapter A to Kittie Edwards and other members of Chapter G in a letter dated February 14, 1876 (10, Dec. 1939, p. 22). The letter was written by Anna Stewart, Ella's sister, who was corresponding secretary of Chapter A.

Chapter G participated in the 1876 convention, held in Mount Pleasant, the story of which appears in the following chapter of this book. Little more is known about Chapter G except for the following quotation which appeared in The P.E.O. Record January, 1927:

> We are indebted to Mr. Dillon H. Payne for having helped to establish the history of one of the very early P.E.O. chapters, Chapter G, Troy, Iowa. In the interest of the data he wrote to Mrs. Mary Norris Ross of Troy, Iowa, to Mrs. Maud Rosser Parks of Bloomfield and to Mary H. Hinkle.
>
> These seem to be the facts concerning it. The chapter was organized in 1875 by Miss Kittie Edwards, among the members were: Kittie Edwards Dietrick, Callie Cunningham Landes, Mary Norris Ross, Ella Norris Lindsay, Hattie Clark Faulk, Ella Young Dunshee, Etta Young Goddard, Maud Rosser Parks, Mollie Hamilton Hinkle, Fannie Stannard, Hattie Bishop Law, Emma Ellis Clark, Nora Ellis, Virgie Metz and Fannie Siddons (10, Jan. 1927, p. 20).

A letter from Chapter G, Troy, "giving the history of their society," was read in Chapter A June 7, 1879. That is the last mention of the chapter, which must have disbanded in 1879 or 1880.

Chapter at Omaha, Nebraska
Possibly Chapter 1st H
Organized 1873 or 1874

'Long, long ago,' or 'Once upon a time' is the way this story should begin, for there is an air of mystery about it and the beginnings are all but lost to time. There are those who will say that it did not happen, but recorded minutes tell us that it did.

Late in 1873 or early in 1874 a small chapter of P.E.O. appeared in Omaha. It was formed by Etta Heraford (or Burford), formerly of Chapter B. She had organized the chapter on her own responsibility without remembering more about the society than the name and the badge. The organization is so recorded in the minutes of Chapter A but not until October 29, 1875, and February 19, 1876. The chapter had existed for two years before Chapter A learned about it.

On March 4, 1876, Etta Heraford's letter was read in Chapter A and Rosa Weatherby was instructed to open correspondence with the Omaha chapter. Apparently she told them about the convention to be in Mount Pleasant May 12, 1876, for on April 15, 1876, Ione Ambler read a letter from the Omaha P.E.O.'s. The letter gave some facts about the chapter and said that it would send delegates to the convention.

Convention minutes are not printed in Chapter A's record book, although blank pages were left for them. Were it not for a letter written by a delegate, Callie Cunningham, to Kittie Edwards of Troy, we might not know the outcome of this story.

Callie Cunningham's letter was printed in The P.E.O. Record, December, 1939. Much of it is also reprinted in the following chapter of this history which concerns early conventions.

From Callie's letter we imply that the Omaha chapter sent delegates to the convention; they reported to convention; were considered P.E.O.'s; were given a copy of the constitution, and they promised to sell their odd pins and buy "like ours."

The Omaha chapter was still in existence March 29, 1879, when minutes of Chapter A reported a letter from Omaha containing a list of the members of that chapter. That is the last available reference to the Omaha society. It must have disbanded late in 1879 or in 1880.

At some time a letter of the alphabet must have been assigned to designate the Omaha chapter. If assigned in 1876, as seems likely, the chapter letter could have been 1st H. That would have been the proper sequence, so H is used to designate the Omaha Chapter in the chart on page 73.

Chapter 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa
Organized September 12, 1881

In the early fall of 1881, Chapter A approved the organization of a chapter at Fairfield, Iowa. By that time, Belle Brooks had married T. Y. Lynch and moved to Fairfield. Belle assisted with plans for the organization and was hostess for the meeting but she did not become a charter member of the new chapter.

The Mount Pleasant P.E.O.'s decided to make it a chapter affair, so September 12, 1881, eleven members of Chapter A traveled by train the 23 miles to Fairfield where Mr. Lynch met them with a hayrack and took them to the Lynch home. An effort had been made to get excursion rates on the train, and it is quite likely that they did. Minutes of Chapter A do not record the outcome of their request.

Minutes of Chapter A do record a story of the organization meeting and the literary and musical program that followed—Chapter A being responsible for both.

Inasmuch as Chapter B at the Seminary had been disbanded, the Fairfield chapter was assigned that letter and became 2nd B. Charter members were: Lizzie Hunt, Mary Lamson, Effie Ramsey, Anna M. Cummings, Effie Monfort, Fanny Beck, Cora Phelps, Ella Lamson and Kitty Wilson.

The program that followed organization consisted of "A Criticism on Holland and His Works," by Lola Goan, followed by quotations from the author. Nina Millspaugh sang, "O' Ye Tears," and Anna Stewart read an essay on gossip titled "A Dream."

Members of Chapter A who made the trip were: Lillie Bartlett, Ione Ambler, Nina Millspaugh, May Hare, Ida Spaulding, Stella Spaulding, Anna Stewart, May Whiting, Ida Coffman, Lola Goan and Louise Janes.

Chapter 2nd H, Burlington, Iowa
Organized October, 1881

A long cherished dream of Chapter A was realized when Chapter H, or 2nd H, was organized at Burlington, Iowa, in October 1881. Early minutes of Chapter A were dotted with references to a possible chapter at Burlington.

Three "delegates" were sent from Chapter A to organize the Burlington society: May Whiting, May Brooks Snider, and Nellie Ambler Campbell. That was indeed a competent committee, but a month after organization Chapter H raised some questions about the organization meeting to which Mrs. Campbell replied.

In January, 1882, the Burlington chapter sent delegates to the convention in Mount Pleasant. They were active participants in convention activities. They gave a brief report of their chapter. Mrs. Dodge of Burlington also gave a recitation at the Thursday night meeting. Later in convention, delegates of Chapter H suggested a possible constitutional change concerning the unanimous vote for election to membership. For a short time special concessions to build up membership were made for Chapter H. However the concessions soon were declared unconstitutional by Chapter A, and Chapter H was so informed.

For reasons unknown, interest in P.E.O. declined within Chapter H. Although not formally disbanded, the chapter was inactive through 1883 and ceased to exist in 1884 or 1885. Members of Chapter H could have participated in the organization of Grand Chapter in November, 1883, but there is no record of their doing so.

A new Chapter, AA, later Chapter P, Iowa, was organized at Burlington November 29, 1887, and still remains a dedicated and active chapter.

Chapter I, Centerville, Iowa
Organized September 8, 1882

Lulu Corkhill Williams, one of the very early initiates in Chapter A, interested her friend Mary Berry in organizing Chapter I at Mary's home in Centerville, Iowa. Ella Stewart signed the charter for Chapter I, later Chapter D, Iowa.

Charter members were: Mary Berry Price Johnson, Dr. Jo Disbro, Sadie Lane Smith, Miss Stella Young, Birdie Young Palliday, Miss Sallie Wright, Stella Riesman O'Neal, Jennie Drake Sawyers, Emma Goss Vermillion, Miss Lou McLaughlin and Eva Drake Goss.

The organization was completed September 8, 1882. Two months later Chapter I answered the call of Chapter A to attend a meeting at Bloomfield, preliminary to the organization of Grand Chapter. Chapter I also participated in the organization of Grand Chapter in October 1883, and Mary Berry Price became its first president.

Chapter I sponsored the organization of the first P.E.O. chapter in Missouri, Chapter W, Unionville, which later became Chapter A, Missouri.

Chapter J, Iowa City, Iowa
Organized March 8, 1883

Chapter J was the last society organized before Grand Chapter was organized in October 1883. Miss Ida Twinting of Chapter A was responsible for the organization of Chapter J, which later became Chapter E, Iowa.

Charter members were: Emma Nixon Moon, Maggie Halmer Seerley, Fannie Edwards Guthrie, May Robinson Crawford and Clara Seymore Clapp.

Chapter J took an active part in the organization of Grand Chapter, and is still taking an active part in all P.E.O. activities.

So far as known, these are the chapters organized and administered under the direction of Chapter A.

8 Conventions Before 1883

Perhaps it was only a natural impulse that made conventions a part of the P.E.O. pattern. It could have been curiosity about the girls in other chapters. But more likely there were dual reasons: to extend hospitality to sisters in other chapters, and to bring about a unity of purpose and procedure.

First Convention, January 4, 1875

P.E.O. was almost six years old when the first convention was held in Mount Pleasant Monday, January 4, 1875. Only six chapters existed then: A and B, Mount Pleasant, Iowa; C, Jacksonville, Illinois; D, Oskaloosa, Iowa; E, Muscatine, Iowa; and F, Bloomfield, Iowa. The new Bloomfield society, organized December 4, 1874, was not represented at the first convention.

When motions were made to hold a convention in Mount Pleasant during the holidays and to make each chapter responsible for the expense of its delegate, Mount Pleasant P.E.O.'s took for granted the entertainment of the delegates in their own homes.

Other chapters were enthusiastic. Oskaloosa made plans to send four delegates. Muscatine named Miss Nellie Bishop to represent its society. Jacksonville sent Miss Severs as the delegate from Chapter C. There may have been others, but, if so, they are not named in the minutes.

Plans for convention were carefully thought through by the members of Chapter A, and the following committees were appointed to handle details:

Resolutions	Belle Brooks, Allie Babb, Emma Schwenker
Convention Programs	Franc Hungerford, Ella Killpatrick, Carrie Potter

Place of Meetings	Ella Killpatrick, Florence Mellon
Bill of Fare	Florence Lynch, Jennie Potter
Printed Invitations	Mrs. Weatherby, Ella Killpatrick
Reception Committee	Belle Brooks, Ella Killpatrick, Dora Kaster
Food Purchasing	Lyda Cowles, Dora Kaster

Chapter A also voted to tax all members who attended the party 50 cents each to pay for oysters, crackers, and butter.

It was decided to have the convention meeting at six o'clock in the evening at the home of Emma Willey. The banquet, or supper meeting, was planned for "9 1/2 o'clock" at the home of Dora Kaster. Gentlemen were invited, and special invitations were sent to married P.E.O.'s in town. The programs were informal: welcome by Ella Killpatrick; response by Effie Hoffman of Oskaloosa and "off-the-cuff" toasts by the gentlemen but not the ladies.

Following is a copy of the convention program and the minutes of the convention meeting, as recorded by the recording secretary of Chapter A. This is indeed a priceless bit of P.E.O. heritage.

> Monday, January 4, 1875
>
> Mount Pleasant, Iowa
>
> First convention held by the P.E.O. sisterhood met at 6 o'clock with Emma Willey. A motion first made that the officers of this Chapter A act as presiding officers of this convention. Seconded and carried. Calling to order by president. Moved, seconded and carried that the programme read by President be adopted as this evening's exercises; programme as follows:
>
> 1st Calling to order by President
> 2nd Prayer
> 3rd Report from Jacksonville [C]
> 4th Report from Muscatine [E]
> 5th Music
> 6th Report from Oskaloosa [D]
> 7th Report from own chapter [A] [B, Seminary must have been included with A]
> 8th Music
> 9th Reading of Constitution
> 10th Miscellaneous Business
> 11th Music
> 12th Experience
> 13th Adjournment
>
> Miss Seevers gave a very good report from Jacksonville. No report given from Muscatine. Music. Miss Hoffman reported for Oskaloosa chapter; not a very favorable report given. Sister Lida Combes reported for our own chapter.
>
> We were then favored with a very beautiful piece of music from Miss Nellie Bishop. [Muscatine]. The constitution was then read by the recording secretary.
>
> Miscellaneous business next in order. It was moved that we hold a yearly convention, appointing delegates from the different chapters. Seconded

and carried. Motion made and supported that we hold the convention at the discretion of the Sisterhood. Motion was carried. Moved that it convene in the month of October. Carried. Moved that the officers where the convention convenes act as the presiding officers. Carried.

Moved, seconded and carried that we have a printed catalogue. Moved that a committee be appointed from each of the chapters to obtain all the names. Carried.

A motion carried that the Constitution be sent to all the chapters not having it.

Moved and carried that Miss Hoffman give the response at our party.

Moved that wherever the convention is held, that chapters adopt their own programme of exercises. Carried.

Moved that if any lady be expelled, a mark be attached to her name in the Catalogue. Carried.

Moved that each chapter select its own committee to collect the names. Miss Seevers appointed for the Jacksonville Chapter [C]; Miss Williams, Oskaloosa Chapter [D]; Miss Bishop, Muscatine Chapter; Miss Phillips, Seminary Chapter [B] and Sister Lida Combes our own [A].

Moved that we have the catalogue printed here. Carried.

Moved a committee be appointed to receive the names from different chapters. Carried. Corresponding Secretary appointed.

Moved that we return a vote of thanks to the sisters meeting with us. Carried unanimously.

Experience next in order.

Moved and carried that we have supper at 9 1/2 o'clock.

Moved and carried that we adjourn.

Belle Brooks, Pres.
Emma Willey, Rec. Sec.

Second Convention, May 11, 12, 13, 1876

Delegates to the first convention voted to hold annual conventions in October. Minutes of Chapter A indicate there had been discussion about holding the second convention at Oskaloosa in October, 1875. That plan failed to materialize, and in January and February plans were made to hold the Convention in Mount Pleasant about May 12, 1876. Official notice of this convention was sent to other chapters by Anna Stewart, corresponding secretary of Chapter A. Anna was a sister of Ella Stewart, one of the P.E.O. founders. Following is a copy of Anna's letter to Kittie Edwards, president of the new Chapter G at Troy:

Mount Pleasant, Iowa
February 14, 1876

Miss Kittie Edwards

Dear Sister:

At our last meeting, we decided to hold the Convention which was to have been in Oskaloosa in October, here in May next and probably on

> the twelfth of that month. We wish each Chapter to make out a list of the names and present residences of all members in said Chapter, including those expelled if there be any. These are for the Catalogues which will not be published until after the Convention. List of names to be brought by delegates. We also wish to know how many delegates you can send; we want one at least and as many more as your Society can afford. The expenses of the delegates will be borne by their own Chapter, except while here when they will be entertained at some of the sisters. Answer immediately, as an answer is desired before Saturday next if possible. Further particulars in our next. In haste.
>
> Anna Stewart (10, Dec. 1939, p. 22).

Another P.E.O. matter occupied the attention of Chapter A that spring. Pauline Ambler had heard there was a P.E.O. Chapter in Omaha, Nebraska. Chapter A contacted Etta Heraford of Omaha (sometimes spelled Herford or Burford), who had been initiated by Chapter B. Etta replied saying that she had organized the Omaha Chapter in 1874. Letters were exchanged between Chapter A and the Omaha group, with the latter promising to send delegates to the convention in Mount Pleasant in May.

Chapter A set Thursday, May 11 at two o'clock for the opening of convention. Neither the program nor the minutes of convention are recorded by Chapter A, although blank pages were left for them in the recording secretary's book. We do know that participating chapters were: A, Mount Pleasant which probably include Chapter B at the seminary; C, Jacksonville; F, Bloomfield; G, Troy; and H, Omaha. Chapter D, Oskaloosa, was not represented.

If Chapter A assigned a letter to the Omaha society, either before or immediately after convention, it would have been H, for that was the next letter in sequence. That seems likely since convention accepted the Omaha group as a regular P.E.O. chapter.

Convention extended from two o'clock Thursday afternoon, May 11, 1876, through Saturday evening, with at least some of the delegates remaining over Sunday. Train travel was difficult and travel by horse and buggy could be precarious, yet they were the only two methods of travel available to delegates.

We would not know what transpired at the second convention if it were not for a letter that Callie Cunningham, one of the delegates, wrote to her friend Kittie Edwards of Chapter G, Troy, a month after convention. Much of Callie's letter is quoted below.

The Callie Cunningham Letter

> We started to Stumptown (now Selma) about 6:00 A.M., Wednesday morning. When we reached there, we had to wait a little over an hour; then ran up to Elden, and waited there from a little after eleven until a

> quarter after three. Reached Fairfield, waited there something over an hour, arriving at Mount Pleasant about dusk. The girls met us. Emma Miller entertained us while there, like her very much. We did not go out into town until after dinner. Thursday. We went to the Convention at 2:00 o'clock. First thing after the opening was a report from all the Chapters: 1st report, Omaha; 2nd report, Troy; 3rd report, Jacksonville; 4th report, Bloomfield; 5th report, Mt. Pleasant. No delegates from Oskaloosa or D. The reports were all accepted.
>
> The Omaha girls read their Constitution. It was not like ours, but they were considered P.E.O.'s, and a copy of our Constitution given them. They are to have their pins sold, and get like ours. Their pins had very long points and P.E.O. engraved on them; they had no pins for a pattern, so just had one made. The lady who organized their Society had lost her P.E.O. pin and said she would send to Mt. Pleasant, but did not...
>
> Then they talked about incorporating the Society. Don't know what they will do about it yet. I can't write much, could tell you so much if I could see you, so guess I will not. Saturday's evening sessions settled some points that were brought up, and had initiation ceremony was about all.
>
> We had a gay time at the Party. Didn't go until nine and left about one. About half were dressed in white and about all had on white slippers and gloves. There were one hundred there I guess... We had a real nice supper; first biscuits, coffee, sliced ham, cold tongue, and pickles, next cake and orange ice cream.
>
> Saturday afternoon there were twenty of us went out to the Asylum. Had a nice time. There were six of us in a one horse buggy; the horse fell down in the mud, they got him up and we all got in again and finally got there at last.
>
> Sunday we went to Main Street to Church in the morning, and Asbery Chapel at night. Saw Mr. Murphy, but did not get to speak to him.
>
> We came home by Burlington, Lou Taylor [Jacksonville] came that far with us. We had to stay in Burlington about two and one-half hours. Ran around over town and saw lots of things. I like Lou very much. There was no one from Bloomfield, but Nannie Leach. I wish you could have been there, I know you would like the girls. They are very nice.
>
> Callie Cunningham (10, Dec. 1939, p. 23).

Third Convention, June 12, 1877

The subject of convention was fully discussed in Chapter A on May 8, 1877, and the date of convention recorded as June 12, 1877. Anna Stewart and Allie Cauffman were elected as delegates and Emma Willey, reserve delegate. None of these delegates could attend convention, so on May 26 a committee was appointed to "wait on Sister Emma Schwenker" and request her to act as the representative from Chapter A. It is quite probable that Emma accepted the responsibility, but minutes do not record this. Neither is there mention of where convention was held nor of the business conducted.

It seems likely that this convention was held at Oskaloosa or Troy since both Jacksonville and Bloomfield were contacted for hostess duties the following year. Chapter E, Muscatine, was inactive and Chapter H, Omaha, was far from the other chapters. There were no other societies.

1878

On Saturday, March 16, 1878, the corresponding secretary of Chapter A was instructed to write to Chapter C, Jacksonville, to learn its wishes regarding convention. The answer was that Chapter C has decided not to entertain a convention in Jacksonville, and to send no delegate if convention were held elsewhere.

The corresponding secretary of Chapter A was then requested to write to Chapter F at Bloomfield concerning convention.

That is the extent of recorded information concerning a convention in 1878, although it may well have been held in Bloomfield that year.

It should be remembered that Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, and Chapter F, Bloomfield, now Chapter B, Iowa, are the only early chapters still in existence. The first book of minutes in possession of the Bloomfield chapter begins with September 5, 1892. Mrs. Phyllis O'Briant, Centennial Chairman for Chapter B, (old F), combed newspaper files in Bloomfield for possible mention of early conventions. None was found, although some social events were mentioned.

1879-1880-1881

No records have been found of conventions held in 1879, 1880 or 1881. Even so, important changes took place in the P.E.O. world during those years.

Chapter B was disbanded in 1879, with the closing of Belden's Female Seminary. Active members of Chapter B who wished, joined Chapter A.

There is no documentary evidence that Chapter H, Omaha, functioned after March, 1879; or that Chapter G, Troy, functioned after June, 1879. The two chapters seem to have disbanded late in 1879 or early in 1880.

That left only Chapter A, Mount Pleasant; Chapter C, Jacksonville; Chapter D, Oskaloosa, inactive during the early 1880's, and Chapter F, Bloomfield.

On September 12, 1881, Chapter A organized a society at Fairfield, Iowa, known as Chapter B, or 2nd B, since that letter was no longer in use by the seminary chapter.

In October, 1881, a chapter was organized at Burlington, Iowa, known as H, or 2nd H, since that letter was no longer in use by the Omaha group.

Members of Chapter A began to think seriously about the future of P.E.O. Their concern was reflected by other chapters through questions directed to Chapter A, still the governing body of P.E.O.

Penelope (Nellie) Ambler, Preceptress, English Literature, at Iowa Wesleyan University, 1864 to 1874, was initiated into Chapter A March 16, 1878, the year of her marriage to W. H. Campbell.

Nellie Ambler Campbell was a woman of unusual training and capacity. Her keen vision, her clear logical thinking, her ability to analyze policies and situations, and her training as a parliamentarian made her the inspiration and guiding power for P.E.O. during the years of reorganization that followed.

Important steps were taken by Chapter A in 1881. A revision of the constitution was adopted as a whole on November 26, 1881. Members of the Revision Committee were Mrs. Whitford, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. May Snider and Miss Ida Spaulding, with Miss Lillian Bartlett, president of Chapter A, as chairman.

A new initiation ceremony written by Mrs. Campbell was adopted January 29, 1882. Until May 12, 1877, only the original oath—a simple pledge of secrecy—was used to initiate prospective members. Then a sentence was added concerning pins of expelled members and this revision was used until the new ceremony was approved. Much of Mrs. Campbell's beautiful writing, as well as the pattern she created for the ceremony, are still in use almost a century later. Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers revised the ceremony in 1886, the initiatory emblem was added in 1890 and other changes have been made from time to time.

The ceremony and the newly revised constitution and bylaws were copied into the notebook, the Private Papers of Chapter A. The book is still in the historical files of Chapter A.

Many philanthropic projects of a charitable or educational nature continued to hold an important place in all chapter activities, as P.E.O. sought expression in something larger than itself.

Convention, January 19, 20, 21, 1882

The 13th anniversary of P.E.O. was marked with change, and celebrated with a three-day convention in Mount Pleasant, January 19, 20, 21, 1882.

Participating chapters were A, Mount Pleasant; C, Jacksonville; F, Bloomfield; and the two new chapters: 2nd B, Fairfield; and 2nd H, Burlington.

Minutes of the convention, as written by the convention secretary, Cora Votan of Bloomfield, are recorded with the minutes of Chapter A.

The convention was held at the home of Mrs. May Brooks Snider opening with a Thursday evening meeting. Lillian Bartlett, president of Chapter A, called the meeting to order. After prayer and music, Miss Lamson, Fairfield, was elected chairman.

Nellie Ambler Campbell sounded the keynote of the convention with her paper on growth and permanence of P.E.O. Other significant papers dealt with:

The Relation of P.E.O.'s to the Society.................Miss Taylor, Jacksonville
Our Objects..................................Miss Goan, Mount Pleasant
Constitution Revision
History of Chapter A.............Ella Stewart, P.E.O. Founder, Mount Pleasant
Physical Education for Women...Mrs. Whitford, Mount Pleasant

Copies of the papers are not available but if they prophesied events to come, then the answers may be read in the records of the years that followed. As customary, the program was generously interspersed with music and readings.

The program Friday featured reports from all five chapters. The constitution was read, also, as it was read at most P.E.O. meetings during those early years. The exception was usually noted in the minutes.

However, it was the prosaic order of miscellaneous business that held the spotlight. Decisions made that day crystallized ideas into action and sent delegates back to their chapters with suggestions that brought about another convention in November and the subsequent change in government the following year.

Although the convention adjourned Friday, two events were yet to come: the party on Friday night, and the anniversary meeting of Chapter A on Saturday, with visiting P.E.O.'s as guests.

Even at that early date, the party had become a traditional part of the convention pattern. Minutes do not state the time nor place at which the party was held, but Friday night would have been the logical time. No doubt it was a banquet or supper meeting. Plans had been made for a large attendance. Minutes record a pre-convention estimate of 170 P.E.O.'s and their escorts. Later, it was decided to invite three members of the I.C. Society, three from the A. B. C. Society, and six who belonged to no society. Chapter A, alone, had a membership of 58, as recorded in the minutes, March 22, 1882.

The birthday meeting of Chapter A on Saturday was unique. Visting P.E.O.'s participated in the meeting.

Convention, November 1, 2, 1882

The second convention of 1882 was held November 1 and 2 in the parlor of the Methodist parsonage at Bloomfield, Iowa. The parsonage was the home of Dr. Thomas E. Corkhill whose daughter Lulu, initiated by Chapter A in 1869, was convention hostess.

This convention, often referred to as the 'parlor convention,' had been called by Chapter A. Ione Ambler of Mount Pleasant presided. The delegation was limited, having only two official delegates from each of the five active chapters: A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; C, Jacksonville; F, Bloomfield; and I, Centerville a new chapter organized September 8, 1882. Chapters D, Oskaloosa, and 2nd H, Burlington were not on active status.

Although proposals for growth in P.E.O. and a possible change in government undoubtedly originated within Chapter A—as documentary evidence indicates—certain it is that other chapters enthusiastically supported the ideas and worked tirelessly to bring them about.

Mrs. Nellie Ambler Campbell of Chapter A had been the active spirit in presenting ideas for change. One evening, after a meeting of Chapter A at the home of the Bartlett sisters, some of the members stayed to talk over changes needed if P.E.O. were to grow and expand its sphere of influence.

Surely all members of Chapter A could not have approved the suggestion of a change in government, along with other proposals, but members came to realize that, in all fairness, the proposals should receive the combined thinking and the vote of all chapters. So Chapter A graciously formulated the plans for a "conclave of chapters," as Mrs. Reeves described it, "to discuss the formation of a delegated body." Hence, the Bloomfield convention.

Two P.E.O.'s who attended the convention, Lulu Corkhill and Mary Berry, wrote about it years later. Lulu wrote as follows:

> And now about the 'parlor convention.' Why Bloomfield was chosen for the preliminary meeting, on November 1, 1882, and why my parlor, I do not now remember, but so it was. During the previous summer I had visited in Mount Pleasant and there seemed to be a spirit of uneasiness and investigation in P.E.O., which I, being a visitor, did not fully understand, but I knew it presaged a Grand Chapter organization.
>
> The delegates came direct to the parsonage from the train, and after the first session were taken to their places of entertainment. At the following sessions the Grand Chapter organization plans were discussed and a meeting called for the next fall in Fairfield. ...
>
> As I have tried to recall early days, I have come to realize as never before, how really important our every day life is, and how much it means to those who come after us. We who were early P.E.O.'s lived those days and did not think them of enough importance to write them down, and did not try to remember events, and how eagerly those records are sought today.
>
> Thus the small events of today may be the great things of tomorrow (6 b., p. 22-23).

Mary Berry attended the Bloomfield convention as a delegate from Centerville. The following year she became the first president of Grand Chapter. Following is her brief resumé of the Bloomfield convention:

> The basis of representation at the Bloomfield convention was ten. We held a two days' session, full of work and interest. The great theme with us then was a desire for change of government. As Mt. Pleasant was the cradle, so was it the ruling power. But conditions had changed, members had multiplied, strength had come with growth, and with it a general desire for a voice in government. After much deliberation and consultation, an agreement was reached that the question of a representative government upon a basis later established should be submitted to each chapter for consideration. A vote on the plan must be taken in all the chapters before the next convention and all delegates instructed on the proposed change. Then the plan would be decided upon there. Many minor affairs were discussed, and royally were delegates entertained. A brilliant reception at the Higbee home was given the last evening..... Miss Ione Ambler, of Mt. Pleasant, presided over the meetings (2, p. 40).

Delegates of Chapter A had taken a copy of current ceremonies and the revised constitution and bylaws to the convention. They were approved for use in all chapters and, with certain changes, they served to govern Grand Chapter until its new constitution was written and adopted.

In the archives of Chapter A are two hard-backed notebooks. One, the Private Papers of Chapter A, contains the laws and ceremonies used in the early years. The other contains a copy—all in the same handwriting—of all laws and ceremonies in current use. The latter book may very well be the one taken to the Bloomfield convention and to Fairfield the following year. There are numerous corrections where "Chapter A" is marked out and "Grand Chapter" inserted, indicating the first transfer of power.

9

Early Laws and Ceremonies

The earliest known P.E.O. laws, recorded by Alice Bird on one sheet of her finest white stationery, were adopted at the first business meeting of Chapter A, January 23, 1869, in the home of Mary Allen (See Chapter 3).

The first brief document could, and probably did, include only the preamble, name, emblem, and a statement of purpose which later became known as the Objects and Aims. Other sections would have required chapter action. So the original document might have been in effect only a matter of moments before other sections were adopted and added. Many additions were made during the weeks that followed. Most bylaws reflected problems of the society, so were added as need presented itself.

The set of laws that evolved, slowly, and under which P.E.O. functioned until the revision in 1881, formed the basis for all laws that have followed and, in elegant prose, outlined the basic principles of P.E.O. Those laws were painstakingly recorded in a notebook, which was labeled The Private Papers of Chapter A. The notebook was bought in April, 1874, and Belle Brooks was appointed to copy the constitution into the new book. It was fortunate for P.E.O. that Chapter A requested and was granted the privilege of keeping the notebook when, in 1887, Grand Chapter ordered all copies of old constitutions and ceremonies sent to Miss Dell Parsons, Knoxville, Iowa, to be destroyed. This was done in order to establish uniformity of procedures. The purpose was accomplished but many historical data were thus destroyed.

Reproduced below with ritualistic sections omitted, is most of the legislation that developed section by section and governed all P.E.O. the first twelve years of its existence. Chapter A, the governing authority until Grand Chapter was organized in October, 1883, sent copies of all laws and ceremonies to newly organized chapters.

CONSTITUTION

Before 1881

Whereas, recognizing it to be the chief duty of every individual to cultivate her powers, physical, mental, moral, and social to their fullest extent, we organize ourselves into a secret society, and adopt for our government the following constitution and bylaws.

Article 1st

Sec. 1st This society shall be composed principally of young ladies attending school but shall not exclude the alumni of any institution or young ladies of excellent standing not in school attendance.

Sec. 2nd The Society shall be known by the name P.E.O.

Sec. 3rd The badge of this Society shall be a golden star with P.E.O. in black enameled letters in the center.

Sec. 4th This star, although it may be worn at other places, will find its properly acknowledged place on the left shoulder and when in that place may be touched at times as a signal of distress.

Article 2nd

Sec. 1st The object of this society shall be general improvement, which shall comprehend more especially

1st Improvement in charity towards and interest in each other as P.E.O.'s.
2nd Improvement in our charity towards and interest in all with whom we may associate.
3rd Improvement in our manners at home and in society.
4th Improvement in our minds by the pursuing of such books and pamphlets in and out of society as shall be proper for P.E.O.'s.

Article 3rd

Sec. 1st [Article 3 was based on a chief duty, or principle object as it was called then. The original wording has been changed very little, but the original copy was arranged differently on the page. Points 1st, 2nd and 3rd were set apart and so numbered as in Article 2 above. Then at the end of the third point three beautiful clauses were added: to care for each other in trouble, to sympathize in affliction and to console in grief.]

Article 4th

Sec. 1st The P.E.O.'s shall not be limited as to time but shall be a permanent society.

Sec. 2nd It shall not be limited as to place but shall be extended into different institutions at the discretion of the society.

Article 5th

Sec. 1st The officers of this society shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain.

Sec. 2nd The officers shall receive new elections every six months.

Bylaws

Resolved—
1st That a fine of 10 cents be affixed to any member who absents herself from any regular meeting of the society except in case of sickness or absence from the city.

4th That any member indebted in any way to the society be prohibited from voting upon any subject until such indebtedness be cancelled.

[July 9, 1870 an amendment was adopted stating:
"No lady shall be taken into the society of P.E.O. unless her name be mentioned in a regular meeting and balloted for in the next regular one."
In line of adoption that would have been the 5th bylaw. But by some oversight it was not recorded in the notebook until the revision of 1881. However the bylaw was well understood by members of Chapter A, and was waived often in order that a candidate might be proposed and balloted upon at the same meeting.]

5th That $3.00 be the initiation fee in the society and that the pin be presented by the sisterhood (12, Oct. 1870).

6th That the Corresponding Secretary correspond with the Corresponding Secretaries of other chapters.

7th That no sister be allowed to lend her star to any person not a member of the P.E.O. Society.

8th [Describes method of identifying another P.E.O. (12, Mar. 25, 1874.]

9th, 10th, 11th [Expulsion did occur, though rarely, and usually for repeated violations of the rules as "laid down in the constitution," but only after "the kindly admonitions of the Sisters." Expulsion required a three-fourths vote of chapter members with every member voting (12, Feb. 8, 1873). An expelled member was required to forfeit her pin (12, Mar. 25, 1874). The latter sentence was the 12th bylaw until May 12, 1877, when it became part of the brief initiation and was replaced with the following bylaw.]

12th That each meeting the chaplain being present shall be opened with prayer, if not present, it shall be left to the option of the society (12, May 12, 1877).

13th That the initiation ceremony can be conferred on one candidate only at a time (12, Mar. 25, 1874).

14th Society shall meet every two weeks on Saturday (12, Mar. 25, 1874).

15th No one shall be initiated without the willing consent of all members.

[Exceptions were made from February 11, 1882 to March 2, 1882 at which time Chapter A voted to strike out the 15th bylaw. It is believed only the exception clause was struck out for membership still required a unanimous vote. See page 84.]

[Bylaws 16, 17, and 18 not quoted here since contents are ritualistic.]

19th No chapter shall have power to change the constitution, bylaws and ceremonies of the society without the consent of Chapter A (12, May 12, 1877).

Rules of Order

1st At the calling of the house to order all whispering or disturbance of any kind shall cease.

2nd While the president is addressing the society as putting a question no member shall carry on a private conversation.

3rd No sister shall be allowed to speak more than twice upon the same subject unless by permission of the president.

4th All business of the society shall be originated in the regular meetings.

5th Called meetings may be held at the discretion of the president by giving notice to a reasonable number of the members.

6th If committees need money, they must get an order from the secretary or president and present to the treasurer (12, Oct. 9, 1880).

7th Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard rules of this society.

Laws that grow with a pioneering society, such as P.E.O. in its early years, are certain to lack uniformity of pattern and expression. Parliamentary form was followed in many instances, but laws were made to answer immediate needs and wording was often secondary. There comes a time when such laws must undergo a complete revision.

The first revision of the P.E.O. constitution and bylaws was made by a committee of five members of Chapter A appointed October 1, 1881: Mrs. Whitford, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. May Snider, and Ida Spaulding. By chapter motion, Lillian Bartlett, president of Chapter A, served as chairman. That was a powerful committee with each member possessed of high moral and intellectual competency. There were members in Chapter A who recognized the need for "rearranging" as well as rewriting many sections of the constitution and bylaws. The committee was so instructed.

At that time, members of Chapter A, and the four other existing chapters, anticipated the possible organization of a central governing body with national growth of P.E.O. as an objective. The revision of the constitution and bylaws was the first big step in that direction.

The revision was copied into the constitution notebook and also into a second notebook. One was taken to the convention of chapters held in Bloomfield, Iowa, November 1, 2, 1882. Two delegates from each of five chapters met in the Methodist parsonage, the home of Lulu Corkhill's parents. The meeting became known as the Parlor Convention, where plans were formulated for the organization of Grand Chapter a year later.

The revised constitution and bylaws were adopted as a whole November 26, 1881. Certain ritualistic sections retained in the revision are omitted below. There are numerous places where Chapter A is marked out and Grand Chapter inserted, showing the transfer of authority. These bylaws with necessary amendments served local chapters until Grand Chapter ordered and executed a complete revision of all P.E.O. laws in 1892-1893.

CONSTITUTION

As revised in 1881 and amended slightly during the several years that followed

Whereas, recognizing it to be the chief duty of every individual to cultivate her powers, physical, mental, moral, and social to their fullest extent, we organize ourselves into a secret society, and adopt for our government the following constitution and bylaws.

Article 1st

Sec. 1st This organization shall be known as the P.E.O. Society, and shall be composed of different chapters, formed at such times and in such localities as may be deemed best.

Sec. 2nd These chapters shall be named by the letters of the alphabet, in the order in which the societies are formed, and this one shall be known as Chapter "A."

Sec. 3rd New chapters may be formed by any chapter, or by an individual member, by obtaining authority from the Grand Chapter, in the form of a written charter.

Sec. 4th In case of the dissolution of a chapter, the constitution, bylaws, and ceremonies, books of minutes, treasury book and all valuable papers belonging to such a chapter, shall be immediately forwarded to the Grand Chapter.

Article 2nd

Sec. 1st This society shall be composed of ladies of good standing.

Sec. 2nd Any chapter may be permitted to initiate ladies of other places, where no chapter exists.

Article 3rd

Sec. 1st The object of this society shall be general improvement, which shall comprehend more especially the following points—1st individual growth in charity toward each P.E.O. and toward all with whom we associate, and in the qualities of Faith, Love, Purity, Justice and Truth; 2nd improvement in our manners at home and in society; 3rd to seek growth in knowledge and mental culture, to obtain stores of wisdom from nature, art, books, study and society, and to radiate all the light possible by conversation, by writing and by the right exercise of any talent we possess; 4th to aim at moral culture, self-control, equipoise and symmetry of character and at temperance in opinions, speech and habits.

Article 4th

Sec. 1st No chapter shall have the power to change the constitution or ceremonies of the P.E.O. Society without the consent of Grand Chapter.

Article 5th

Sec. 1st The badge of this society shall be a golden star with P.E.O. in black enameled letters in the center.

Sec. 2nd This star, although it may be worn at other places, will find its properly acknowledged place on the left shoulder and when in that place may be touched at times as a signal of distress.

Article 6th

Sec. 1st The initiation fee of the society shall be $3.00. The pin shall be presented by the sisterhood and, in case of expulsion of a member, it shall be returned to the society, whose property it is.

Article 7th

Sec. 1st All members shall be chosen by ballot.

Sec. 2nd No one shall be initiated without the willing consent of all the resident members.

Sec. 3rd When a lady is invited to become a member, decision shall be made within six months or the name must be proposed and voted upon again. No one who has given consent shall be deprived of the right of initiation, except upon written protest of some member, stating objections, and endorsed by a three-fourths vote of the members.

Article 8th

Sec. 1st The officers of this society shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain and Guard.

Sec. 2nd These officers shall be elected by ballot every six months.

Bylaws

1st It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the society, to appoint a committee, to call all meetings, to confer either personally, or by representation, with candidates for membership, and to have a special care for the interest of the society.

2nd In the absence of the President, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Vice President.

3rd The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, and it shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary of Grand Chapter to copy the constitution and bylaws, whenever required.

4th The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the society. It shall be her duty to receive the initiation fees and to order and deliver the pins, paying the surplus funds into the hands of the Treasurer. It shall also be her duty to send a list of the officers of the chapter, immediately after each election to the Corresponding Secretary of Grand Chapter, and to collect and forward the Grand Chapter dues.

5th It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and collect the dues of members, and to pay out money as the society shall from time to time direct, making a report of the same to the society. She shall also call the roll at each regular meeting.

6th It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to open each regular meeting with prayer.

8th And it shall further be the duty of each P.E.O. to faithfully perform, if possible, every duty assigned to her, in any order of exercise adopted by the society.

9th Any member indebted in any way to the society, shall be prohibited from voting on any subject until such indebtedness be cancelled.

10th All remittances to the society from members, shall be by draft or Post Office money order, or at the risk of the sender.

11th No sister shall be allowed to loan her star to any person not a P.E.O., and any member failing to observe this rule, shall be fined $1.00.

12th Any member who frequently violates the Constitution, and will not listen to the kindly admonition of the Sisters, but persists in provoking the endurance of the society, can be expelled at any regular meeting of the society.

13th In order to expel a member from any P.E.O. chapter, it is necessary that every member of that chapter cast a vote and that three-fourths of the same be in favor of expulsion.

14th No member can withdraw from the society or insist she is no longer a P.E.O., unless by expulsion.

15th Each regular meeting shall be opened by prayer if the Chaplain be present. If not it shall be left to the option of the President.

16th The name of any candidate for membership shall be proposed at a regular meeting; at the next regular meeting a ballot shall be taken upon the name proposed. If this results favorably, and the willing consent of each member be obtained, the candidate may be initiated at any subsequent meeting.

17th The initiation ceremony can be conferred on one candidate only at a time.

18th Society shall meet every two weeks on Saturday.

23rd Any P.E.O. may change her membership by obtaining from the chapter of which she is a member, a dismissal, properly signed by the President and Secretary, and presenting this to the chapter she wishes to join.

24th Each member shall be required to pay into the treasury of the Grand Chapter, the sum of fifty (50) cents—payable semi-annually.

25th On the death of any sister, the chapter of which she is a member, shall drape their stars in mourning for twenty-one (21) days, and resolutions shall be adopted, a copy of which shall be sent to the city papers and to the family of the deceased.

26th These bylaws shall be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds vote.

A motion February 18, 1882, provided that a second ballot for membership should be taken if one unfavorable vote appeared on the first ballot. Eventually this provision found its way into the bylaws.

After the revision of laws and ceremonies was completed and adopted, Ella Stewart and Ione Ambler were appointed a committee to make a list of the founders and all members of Chapter A, the list to be placed in the book with the constitution. It was also voted that each new member should place her name on the membership list (12, Jan. 29, 1882).

For a time in the early 1880's, Chapter A had some of the old minutes of Chapter A read at each meeting.

The Book

Each chapter organized prior to Grand Chapter, received a copy of "the book." It was no ordinary book that found its way into every chapter organized from 1869 to 1883. The little "limp-backed note-book" might have cost as much as ten cents, but the P.E.O. laws and ceremonies copied into it by the recording secretary of Chapter A, gave it great value. To the individual chapters it was indispensable.

Only one of these books is known to exist now (1968).

It had belonged to Mrs. R. D. Cramer of Memphis, Missouri, who played an important role in early P.E.O. history both in Missouri and in Grand Chapter. She was the first president of Missouri Grand Chapter, 1894-1896, and served three different years as either first or second vice president of Grand Chapter. After her death in 1929 "the book" was found by her daughter, Ada Cramer Scott, Mrs. George L., who sent it to the P.E.O. historical department.

In telling of this incident Mrs. Reeves, editor of The P.E.O. Record, put it thus:

> When a new chapter was to be organized any P.E.O. who was going in the direction of the town of organization or who had a horse and buggy to take her there, took "the book" and set out.... In this book may be found the beginnings of both ritual and law as it is today (10, Jan. 1940, p. 19).

Form for Charter

Adopted by Chapter A August 16, 1882

We, Chapter A, original founders of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, do grant to the following named persons:____________________________

____

of the city of ______________________ the privilege of forming a chapter of the before mentioned Sisterhood in that place and for the purpose set forth in the accompanying Constitution, Bylaws and Ceremonies. Said new chapter to be known as Chapter ___, and is to be governed and conducted according to and in harmony with the accompanying Constitution, Bylaws and Ceremonies, with such amendments and changes as said Chapter A may authorize, and in case of wilful violation of the letter or spirit of them by said chapter, this charter shall be forfeited and all rights and privileges herein granted shall be withdrawn.

Signed this ______ day of ______________ at Mount Pleasant, Iowa

____

Sec. of Chapter A

____

Pres. of Chapter A

A Charter for Chapter A

Chapter A, as the founding chapter and the governing body of P.E.O., granted permission for the formation of all new chapters until Grand Chapter was organized in October, 1883. At that time the charter was revised and plans were made to have it printed. Grand Chapter, as the new governing body, assumed the power of granting all charters until the state grand chapters were organized: Nebraska in 1890, Iowa in 1893, Missouri in 1894, and the many others that have followed. In 1890 Grand Chapter adopted Charters for State Grand Chapters and uniform charters for local chapters.

After the Iowa Grand Chapter became a reality, October 13, 1893, all chapters in the state were relettered in sequence according to date of organization. This was in accordance with Grand Chapter plans for all states. With relettering completed, officers of Iowa Grand Chapter began the task of issuing new charters under the new lettering.

But Chapter A, as the founding chapter, had never had a charter. The Iowa Grand Chapter decided to do something about it. A courtesy charter, to which a few unique phrases were added, was issued to Chapter A.

Charter

We the State Grand Chapter in the state of Iowa in whom the highest power in the State is vested do grant the following named persons

Alice Bird
Alice Coffin
Ella Stewart
Franc Roads
Suela Pearson
Mary Allen
Hattie Briggs

of the city of Mount Pleasant in the state of Iowa the privilege of forming a chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood in said city and for the purpose set forth in the accompanying Constitution, Bylaws and Ceremonies said chapter to be known as Chapter A....

Issued on the 22nd day of June in the year of our Lord 1894.

Alice Spilman
President

Flora Chester Herring
Recording Secretary

Written on the bottom margin are these words:

"Compliments of the Iowa Grand Chapter to Chapter A, the mother of the order. Organized Jan'y 21st 1869."

Installation Ceremony

The first available minutes of Chapter A, April 16, 1870, record the installation of officers. The simple installation ceremony from the notebook, The Private Papers of Chapter A, was used through early years, possibly from the beginning of P.E.O. It was ordered copied into the "Constitution Notebook" November 25, 1874, at the time the notebook was set up.

All officers were installed in a body except the president, she being installed alone after the others. Here is the simple ceremony that was used:

> *President* (or installing officers)
> You have consented to act as officers of this Society. Do you promise to fulfill the obligations which your respective offices will involve?
> *Answer.* I do
> *President* (or installing officer)
> You have consented to act as President of this Society. Do you promise to fulfill the obligations which this office will involve?
> *Answer.* I do.

When Grand Chapter was organized in October, 1883, the convention adopted a new ceremony for installation, one that would be appropriate for Grand Chapter. No copy of this ceremony is available. In 1885 changes were made in the ceremony for local chapters (12, Jan. 24, 1885). It is likely that some revision was made in 1892 or 1893. If so, copies are not available. There was an extensive revision in 1899.

The beautiful installation ceremony currently in use as the first century ends, dates from 1921. The convention that met in Denver in 1919 not only adopted a complete revision of the constitution, bylaws and standing rules, but also ordered a complete revision of ceremonies. The suggested revision of three ceremonies—initiation, installation and the burial ritual—were presented to and adopted by the convention of Supreme Chapter that met in Kansas City in October, 1921.

Burial Ritual

It was common for members of Chapter A to participate in the funeral service of one of its members. This was true in other early chapters as well. But so far as known, no ritualistic service was in use until after the organization of Grand Chapter. Even there it did not come immediately. In 1890 a competent committee composed of Jessie M. Thayer of Chariton, Ella Randel of Ottumwa, and Alice Bird Babb of Mount Pleasant wrote a Burial Ritual that was adopted as written by the 1890 convention of Grand Chapter. An extra page had to be inserted in copies of the Burial Ritual after the 1905 convention of Supreme Grand Chapter voted specific instructions for the disposition of the pin after the death of a member (12, Nov. 1905, p. 249).

Slight changes may have been made in the years that followed but it was the convention of 1921 that adopted the Burial Ritual as revised and presented by the following Revision Committee: Virginia Corbett, Ola B. Miller and Minnie E. Stuff. The last revision was in 1963.

When the convention of Supreme Chapter met in Saint Louis in 1939 delegates approved a codification of the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, and slight grammatical corrections to ceremonies.

The Initiatory Ceremony

The first initiation ceremony was the oath, written by Alice Bird on the day P.E.O. was founded, and used that afternoon for the initiation of the seven founders. The oath consisted of thirty-five words and was a simple pledge of secrecy. It was used to initiate prospective members until May 12, 1877, when a sentence was added concerning pins of expelled members. Then those two sentences, or oaths, were used until the regular ceremony was approved in January, 1882.

The same committee members who had revised the constitution and bylaws were asked to prepare an initiation ceremony for consideration by Chapter A. According to Alice Bird it was Nellie Ambler Campbell, a member of the committee, who was largely responsible for the writing of the ceremony.

Penelope (Nellie) Ambler had been preceptress of English Literature at Iowa Wesleyan University from 1864 to 1874. She became a member of Chapter A in 1878, the same year of her marriage to W. H. Campbell. She was a woman of unusual training and capacity, so it is not surprising that she became the inspiration and guiding power for P.E.O. during the years of reorganization that followed.

The regular initiation ceremony was written late in 1881 and adopted by Chapter A, January 29, 1882. Before adoption Chapter A made two changes in the ceremony: Hope was changed to Justice and Fidelity to Truth. Much of Mrs. Campbell's beautiful writing as well as the pattern she created for the ceremony, are still in use nearly a century later. The original oath, as written by Alice Bird, was incorporated into the ceremony. It has been changed through the years. Two others are almost word for word as Nellie Ambler Campbell wrote them.

Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers enlarged the ceremony in 1886, and there have been other changes from time to time. But all changes have been minor except those required for the addition of the initiatory emblem.

Miss Ida B. Johnson, a teacher by profession and a member of Chapter K, Lincoln, Nebraska, was the originator of the star ceremony. With the help of several members of Chapter K, the proposed ceremony was demonstrated before the convention of Nebraska Grand Chapter in 1897. It met with warm and instant approval by the Nebraska delegation.

When the convention of Supreme Grand Chapter met in Chicago in 1899, Chapter A of Chicago initiated a real candidate using the newly suggested star ceremony in the initiation service. The plan was approved and a committee appointed to unify its use in all chapters.

A surprise revision was presented to the convention of Supreme Grand Chapter in Brookfield, Missouri, in 1907. The executive board had recognized the need for certain revisions to the initiation ceremony, and Mrs. M. Lou Weber, president, appointed a committee for that purpose. Mrs. Carrie M. Peterson of Nebraska, chairman, was assisted by two past presidents of Supreme Grand Chapter, Mrs. Walter Campbell and Mrs. Flora C. Herring. The revised ceremony was exemplified and adopted. That revision changed the password. It was so used until the next revision was adopted by the 1921 convention of Supreme Chapter, at which time it was changed back to the original form (10, Dec. 1921, p. 29).

The last revision was made in 1921 when the convention of Supreme Chapter met in Kansas City. The suggested revision was presented as an exemplification each day, then was adopted the last day of convention.

Grammatical corrections to the ritual were permitted in 1939. A very few minor ones were made to the initiation ceremony.

With the exception of a few slight changes made by Grand Chapter, this traces the development of the initiatory ceremony.

10 P.E.O. Lore

Butterscotch Candy. Remember the story of the seven founders who met at the Allen home one evening and made a large quantity of butterscotch candy—much more than they ordinarily would make for seven people? As Alice Babb told the story in article Seven Homes, there was a "noise, a scuffle, and seven tramp students walked right into that room; they made no apology, and Mary received them in her usual gracious manner, ...when according to college rules, she should have put them out. Now the way that butterscotch vanished was a caution—nothing left but the plates. Then began the singing, Aileen Aroon, Meet me by Moonlight Alone, and as I write, I can hear Dillon Payne's fine tenor, rising high and strong in our choice song, In the Starlight. ...Of course we seven girls were taken up before the faculty next day. ...Dr. Holmes told us never to repeat it—which we did" (10, Jan., 1940, p. 13).

Homes of Founders. In 1869 the homes of the founders ranged from elaborate to very simple, but each home reflected an air of culture and refinement. The girls were always welcome and so were their friends. Undoubtedly a dinner party in one of those homes would not have been a red-checked tablecloth affair but rather one of snowy white linen damask. There were many dessert parties or candy pulls, and P.E.O. meetings were welcomed.

Dr. Bird and Dr. Pearson. In an article written by Alice Bird, she referred to her father and Dr. Pearson as "little pills" and "calomel" as homeopathy and allopathy were sometimes called. Both men were eminently successful in their chosen fields.

Expansion through Difficulty. Members of Chapter T, Iowa (old AM) were expansion minded, and expand they did though the elements failed to cooperate. Members of Chapter T, Garden Grove, went by train to Leon, Iowa, to organize Chapter W (old 2nd C) on January 31, 1890. A blizzard struck in that area and the visitors were snowbound for three days. It is said that the new Leon chapter received a great amount of instruction.

The next venture in organization occurred May 3, 1892. Two Garden Grove P.E.O.'s went to Clarinda, Iowa, to organize Chapter AE (old AQ). The chapter was organized but a driving rain prevented their returning home as planned. In fact rains continued and the two P.E.O.'s were guests in the Mary Butler Westcott home for two weeks.

Read Old Minutes. It is recorded in the 1880 minutes of Chapter A, that for a time some of the "old minutes" were read at each meeting.

A Quilt. One year the girls in Chapter A voted to piece an "album type" quilt in meetings. The outcome of the decision is not known.

Transfer Names. During the early years there were no regulations about transfer of membership. A chapter merely voted to transfer a sister's name to its roll.

No Gavel. Gavels were scarce in some of the early chapters. There is record of one chapter using a large wooden crochet hook for a gavel. Another chapter used a cane for a gavel at its organization meeting. There must have been many strange substitutes until gavels became an item of supply.

P.E.O. Song. Miss Ida Taylor, a P.E.O. in Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois, was a writer of lyrics. She promised to write the words of a song for Chapter A. That event was anticipated with much pleasure. Finally the song was received by Chapter A, read in meeting, and Nina Millspaugh was asked to set it to music. Nina was generous with her musical ability. Later she married Mr. Perry and moved to Garden City, Kansas, where she was instrumental in organizing Chapter X, Kansas. To date, March 1968, the song has not been located.

The Same Cape. The cape that Alice Coffin and Franc Roads wore in the portraits painted of the founders was the same cape, probably owned by the photographer for such purposes. It was much the same idea as sororities have used in leaving a blouse, collar, sweater, or drape with the photographer, and each member being photographed in the same garment.

Meeting Rooms. Many early chapters had meeting rooms, each member taking a chair from home and donating other furniture as needed.

Children in Meetings. There are many records of young children attending P.E.O. meetings. That practice continued until after 1900, but was finally considered unwise and disrupting and was discontinued.

Initiated Twice. It was not too uncommon for a P.E.O. to be initiated twice; it was sometimes simpler than to decide how to transfer membership. Nellie Bishop Crossman was initiated by Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in 1874, and by Chapter I, Los Angeles, in 1904. Later Chapter A sent a dimit, which must have made her a first-class member of Chapter I. Lura Combs Ross was a P.E.O. in Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana. She moved to Kansas and organized Chapter A at Meade in 1888. She could not decide how to transfer her membership so initiated herself with the others. Hilda Bloomberg Torrence was initiated by members of Chapter T, Grinnell, Iowa in 1885. She moved to Toledo, Ohio. In the meantime Chapter T was disbanded. There was no provision for furnishing dimits for members of disbanded chapters, so Chapter I, Toledo, initiated her again.

Certificates. Soon after the turn of the century it was the custom in some states to issue certificates of recognition to any P.E.O. who had held all offices in a local chapter. For example: Miss Carrie M. Evans, a past president of Minnesota State Chapter, received a Certificate of Recognition for holding all offices in her local chapter.

Mrs. Maude Cornell was granted a Certificate of Honor by California Grand Chapter stating: This is to certify that Mrs. Maude Cornell has credibly filled all elective offices of the Local Chapter and her name has been inscribed on the roll of honor.—April 6, 1916; S. G. C., Martha M. Smith, President; Maud Wagner, Rec. Secty.

Model Meeting. Mrs. Grace Runyan Parks attended the convention of Oregon State Chapter in 1933. A model meeting was given. Mrs. Parks like the idea and recommended it to the sisterhood. It has since become a part of all convention programs.

Endow a Chair. The White History records the payment by Grand Chapter of $100 for each of two years to Iowa Wesleyan University to assist in endowing a woman's chair. It was hoped that a P.E.O. might find a place there. No results are available. One of the founders, Alice Bird, filled the chair of Latin and Greek at Iowa Wesleyan in the early 1870's, but that was before Grand Chapter existed.

President of Two State Chapters. Only two P.E.O. members have served as president of two state chapters: Mrs. Charlotte T. Moffatt, president of Minnesota State Chapter 1913-1914, and president of Iowa State Chapter 1924-1925. Mrs. Helen Hays Hutton, president, South Dakota State Chapter, 1937-1938, and the first president of Tennessee State Chapter November, 1956, to April, 1957. All officers were re-elected and served 1957-1958. Helen has been elected and installed as a state president three times.

One Hostess Chapter. In earlier days of P.E.O. when convention delegations were small, it was customary for one chapter to entertain conventions of state chapters or even Grand Chapter. As late as 1920, the very new president of the very new Chapter BD, Kansas, went to state convention. No invitation had been received for entertainment of conventions the following year, so she extended the invitation in the name of her chapter, and that small new chapter learned many things about P.E.O. that first year.

In May, 1964, Chapter S, Nevada, entertained the convention of Nevada State Chapter at Tonopah. Chapter S had only seventeen members, but according to newspaper reports there was not a thing missing. Similar examples may be found in more recent P.E.O. Records. (See June, 1968.)

P.E.O. Register. At the time of the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893, P.E.O. decided to maintain a P.E.O. room in one of the buildings. A large registration book was prepared for registration of visitors. The cover of the book is a soft cream-colored leather with P.E.O. Register, Columbian Exposition, 1869-1893, stamped in gold on the cover. The book also was used to register visitors to the Omaha Trans-Mississippi Exposition, 1898; P.E.O. Day at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis, 1904; and was used to register delegates and visitors to conventions of Supreme Grand Chapter, 1893 to 1909, and Supreme Chapter, 1909 to 1915. The book is in excellent condition and is kept in the historical collection of Supreme Chapter.

The P.E.O. Ode. The history of the opening ode is not a long story, but a very interesting one.

At the Supreme Chapter convention held in Denver, Colorado, in October 1919, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Miss Margaret Durward, president of Supreme Chapter, appointed Miss Virginia Corbett, dean of women of the Colorado College of Agriculture, as chairman of a committee on revision of the P.E.O. ritual. The committee brought a report to the Supreme Chapter convention at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1921.

As the work of the revision committee neared its close, the members became conscious of the need of a new ode. Miss Caroline Kettle, a member of Chapter G, Fort Collins, Colorado, the chapter to which Miss Corbett belonged, had published poems, lyrics and prose. To her Miss Corbett made an effective appeal and Miss Kettle wrote the inspiring words of the Ode which was to take the place of the hymn that had formerly been used.

Miss Corbett asked her good friend, Howard S. Reynolds, head of the department of violin and teacher of harmony in the Colorado College Conservatory of Music, to set it to music. It was adopted at the convention of Supreme Chapter in Kansas City in 1921.

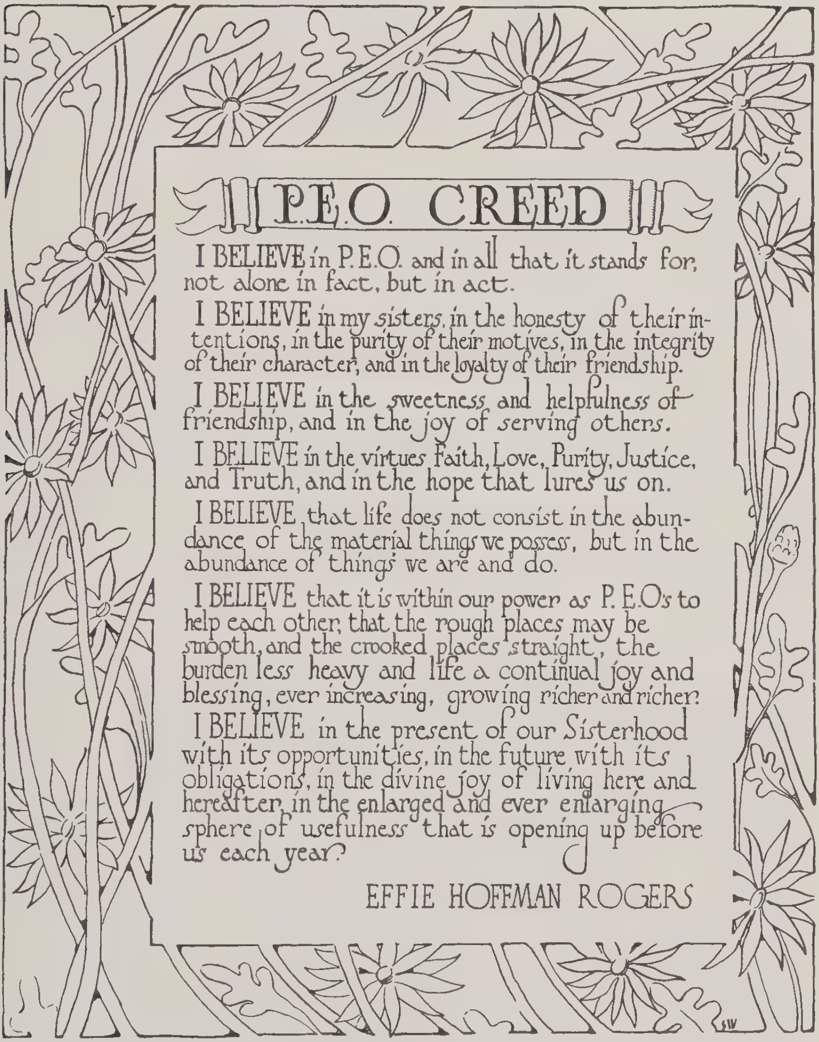
Caroline Kettle, author of the P.E.O. Ode

Candle Lighting Ceremony. Mary Louise Woelber who originated the candle lighting ceremony in 1914, insisted it "was not meant as a memorial service but rather as a loving, glowing tribute to the seven loving, glowing girls." The following paragraphs are from her story of that ceremony:

> On January 21, 1914, Chapter C of New York City was to meet at my studio, the Woelber School of Music, 566 Park Avenue, to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Mrs. Bessie R. Raney was president of Chapter C at the time. We were to have with us that day as a special attraction Mrs. Beall, a member of the original chapter at Mount Pleasant.
>
> The committee in charge, Mrs. Inez C. Bagley, Mrs. Lucille Moore Shields, Mrs. Grace Hartung, Mrs. Harriet Cartright, had asked Mrs. Beall to give a toast to the "Original Seven." On the morning of the day (it was to be a luncheon) I went about as all hostesses do, seeing that everything was in readiness and giving a finishing touch here and there. ...
>
> My eye fell on a seven branch candlestick on the mantel. Perhaps it was the wood fire burning so brightly in the fireplace that put a bit of sentiment in my thoughts. There flashed through my mind—seven candles, seven girls, what a lovely tribute it would be if, at the conclusion of Mrs. Beall's toast, the name of each of the Original Seven be pronounced and a candle lighted in her honor. This simple ceremony was enacted while soft music sounded. It seemed to strike an answering chord in every heart. We clasped hands and formed a circle about the shining candelabrum with its seven rays of light and I feel sure that every one of us in some way felt a reconsecration to the ideals of P.E.O. (6, c, p. 134).

P.E.O. Creed. Written by Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers near the turn of the century, the P.E.O. Creed has held a distinctive place in P.E.O. It is a sincere statement of Effie's belief in P.E.O. and its traditions:

P.E.O. CREED



P.E.O. CREED

I BELIEVE in P.E.O. and in all that it stands for, not alone in fact, but in act.

I BELIEVE in my sisters, in the honesty of their intentions, in the purity of their motives, in the integrity of their character, and in the loyalty of their friendship.

I BELIEVE in the sweetness and helpfulness of friendship, and in the joy of serving others.

I BELIEVE in the virtues Faith, Love, Purity, Justice, and Truth, and in the hope that lures us on.

I BELIEVE that life does not consist in the abundance of the material things we possess, but in the abundance of things we are and do.

I BELIEVE that it is within our power as P.E.O.'s to help each other, that the rough places may be smooth, and the crooked places straight, the burden less heavy and life a continual joy and blessing, ever increasing, growing richer and richer.

I BELIEVE in the present of our Sisterhood with its opportunities, in the future with its obligations, in the divine joy of living here and hereafter, in the enlarged and ever enlarging sphere of usefulness that is opening up before us each year.

EFFIE HOFFMAN ROGERS

—As illustrated by Irene M. Dyer

PART II

1883-1893

The Course Is Set

Man sets his course by human need and the light of education directed or limited, as he sometimes is, by the circumstance of his environment.

11 Grand Chapter

Grand Chapter presented a unique phase in P.E.O. history, but not a well known one. It covered the years 1883-1893. Older chapters, fortunate enough to own a copy of the White History, printed in 1903, have access to much of this history. Other chapters do not, for the White History, so called because of its white cover, has been out of print many years. Grand Chapter data used in this volume are based directly on hand written minutes of the conventions of Grand Chapter.

In 1883 P.E.O. was still an organization of young women. The founders and their contemporaries were in their early thirties. Most initiates were college girls. Mrs. Nellie Ambler Campbell, who advocated a central governing body and who played the important role of advisor for the organization of Grand Chapter, was one of the exceptions. She was initiated into Chapter A in 1878 at the age of 34. Before that she had served for ten years as preceptress of English Literature at Iowa Wesleyan University. She was well prepared to serve as advisor in the important business of setting up an organization destined to become international in scope.

There were no patterns for an organization such as Grand Chapter, but most P.E.O.'s were well versed in parliamentary procedure. Robert's Rules of Order, and later Shattuck's Manual, were available when needed. Even so, P.E.O. remained unique among organizations as it continued to mirror the founders with their pioneer spirit and deeply religious backgrounds, their love for each other, their natural bent for work with an altruistic purpose, and their beautiful dream of finding a worthy project for P.E.O.

Organization
October 10, 11, 12, 1883

All day Wednesday, October 10, 1883, young women arrived in Fairfield, Iowa. Many came by train; some in horse-drawn buggies and carriages. They had come from Centerville and Bloomfield on the southwest; from Mount Pleasant a few miles east; from Iowa City far to the north; and from Jacksonville, Illinois, far to the east. The assemblage at Fairfield, October 10, 11, 12, 1883, presaged a new era for P.E.O.: an era of growth and change that was to encompass two nations, leave the mainland, and eventually establish education for young women as one of the primary purposes of P.E.O.

The arrivals in Fairfield were delegates to a convocation or convention dedicated to the idea of representative government through a delegated body, in which the governing authority of P.E.O. would be vested.

The minutes of the organization meeting do not state the number of delegates allowed each chapter, nor the number of P.E.O.'s who attended either as delegates or visitors. There could have been and probably were close to 100 in all. According to The Story of P.E.O., the committee on General Assembly contained one member from each chapter – "just half the convention" (6a, p. 32). With six chapters participating, only 12 members would have been official delegates. Delegates from each chapter were seated together for the purpose of business consultation.

Six active chapters were in existence in October 1883 and each sent representatives to Fairfield. They were A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa; 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa; C, Jacksonville, Illinois; F, Bloomfield, Iowa; I, Centerville, Iowa; and J, Iowa City, Iowa.

Members of Chapter 2nd H, Burlington, Iowa, might have helped to launch Grand Chapter but there is no record of their doing so. The chapter was then on inactive status, though not formally disbanded. Delegates had attended the convention in Mount Pleasant in January, 1882, but not the Bloomfield convention in November, 1882. There is no record of a Burlington P.E.O. attending the Fairfield convention, and no Burlington P.E.O. was appointed to committees that required one member from each chapter in attendance.

Chapter D, Oskaloosa, Iowa, also lay dormant at the time, as though waiting for Effie Hoffman Rogers to move back to Oskaloosa and reorganize it. That was done, but not until October 4, 1884.

Delegates and visitors to the Fairfield convention were entertained in the homes of local P.E.O.'s. The custom continued for many years, and still (1967) serves a useful purpose for entertaining conventions of state chapters in small cities where hotel accommodations are not available for all delegates.

A social affair was held for members of P.E.O. on Wednesday evening, October 10, at the home of Mrs. R. J. Wilson. "Music, refreshments, toasts and responses were the order of the day" (13a, 1883, p. 1).

The Society convened in the Masonic Hall, Thursday, October 11, at 9 a.m. The meeting was called to order by the president of the Fairfield chapter. After prayer, the following convention officers were elected: Miss Lily Bartlett of Mount Pleasant, president; Miss Effie Law of Bloomfield, vice-president; and Miss Effie Albright of Centerville, secretary.

Preliminary items of business being disposed of, a motion was made to establish a general assembly for the government of the Society. The motion was laid on the table until after the reports of chapters had been submitted. A committee on General Assembly was appointed consisting of one member from each chapter: Mrs. McCracken, Fairfield, chairman; Miss Berry, Centerville; Miss Seerly, Iowa City; Miss Spaulding, Mount Pleasant; Mrs. Hill, Bloomfield; and Miss Hatfield, Jacksonville. A motion prevailed to allow Chapter A two members on the committee, since Chapter A was the originator of "our society." The name of that member is not recorded.

The work of writing the constitution for the new organization was delegated to the committee on General Assembly. In the White History, printed in 1903, Mary Berry, who became the first president of Grand Chapter, points up the work of that committee:

> How well do I remember the time we spent in that little ante-room; how we hurriedly and imperfectly formed what became the first Grand Chapter constitution. It was adopted section by section and Mt. Pleasant gracefully gave over to this new-born creature her authority and good-will, thereby becoming one of us instead of being the one. The constitution of a general representative assembly was adopted, but the convention felt it was rather experimental, and a committee of one from each Chapter... was appointed to revise it during the year.
>
> No name was originally given to the body created in this constitution, and it was only after much discussion and considering several names proposed that Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood was adopted (2, p. 11).

The actual vote on the name is not clear in the minutes, but other items in the minutes record it as The Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and such it came to be.

This name constitutes the first official use of the word Sisterhood in P.E.O., although it often was used interchangeably with the words society or organization. In the beginning the constitution stated: "The Society shall be known by the name of P.E.O." Just P.E.O. That is the way the founders named their society. Then when the constitution was revised shortly before the organization of Grand Chapter the section read: "This organization shall be known as the P.E.O. Society."

But the naming of the new and highest governing body in P.E.O. was quite another matter. The name chosen reflects the importance and dignity with which the delegates invested the new organization when they chose to name it The Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Cumbersome as its use has been, the word Sisterhood has remained an official part of the P.E.O. name for 85 years (1968).

The constitution and bylaws for local chapters also received attention at the Fairfield meeting. A committee was appointed "to make such necessary changes in the constitution as might be immediately necessary." The constitution referred to here is the one revised by Chapter A, approved for chapter use by members of the November 1882 convention, and taken to the organization meeting at Fairfield in October, 1883. The constitution and its bylaws had grown through the years with P.E.O. Most of the "necessary changes" shown on the master copy, which is still in the possession of Chapter A, were to mark out "Chapter A" and insert "Grand Chapter" where authority was shown.

Convention adopted a new installation ceremony and made plans for printing new charters.

Chapter A's plan for handling the pin was adopted, viz: That the Grand Chapter decide upon a sample pin to place in the hands of one manufacturer, each chapter to order pins from the firm decided upon.

By constitution, the president was given authority to organize new chapters by and with the consent of the executive board.

A motion was adopted to resolve the assembly into the Grand Chapter.

> Officers for the following year were elected and installed:
> President, Miss Mary Berry, Chapter I, Centerville.
> Vice President, Miss May Hare, Chapter A, Mount Pleasant.
> Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Maggie Seerly, Chapter J, Iowa City.
> Recording Secretary, Mrs. Clara Worthington, Chapter B, Fairfield.
> Treasurer, Mrs. Emma Hill, Chapter F, Bloomfield.

An amendment was adopted to provide for two vice presidents. Miss Sallie Hatfield of Jacksonville, Illinois, was elected Second Vice President, thus making one officer from each of the six participating chapters.

Mrs. Nellie Ambler Campbell was given a vote of thanks for her help during convention.

With officers properly elected and installed, due thanks extended for courtesies, and the invitation accepted to hold the 1884 convention in Centerville, the convocation for the organization of Grand Chapter passed into history.

Highlights of Grand Chapter Conventions
1884-1893

September 4, 5, 1884
Centerville, Iowa
Odd Fellows Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; F, Bloomfield; I, Centerville; J, Iowa City; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa.

New Chapters:

M, Moulton, Iowa, April 12, 1884
N, Ottumwa, Iowa, May 27, 1884
1st K, (or L, probably K), Jacksonville, Illinois, 1883 or 1884

According to Illinois P.E.O. History, a small chapter was organized in Jacksonville, Illinois, some time in 1883, taking its membership from the same source as Chapter C: the Jacksonville Female Academy, the Athenium, and the Illinois College. It was designated as K or L, but it may have existed only a few months.

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Mary Berry Price, President.

Mary Berry became a P.E.O. on September 8, 1882, as a charter member of Chapter I, Centerville, Iowa. She was a perfect choice for the first president of Grand Chapter. She possessed natural ability, education, business experience and the courage of a pioneer. She had taught school for some ten years, then was assistant postmistress at Centerville, Iowa, at the time Grand Chapter was formed in October 1883. She resigned the latter position soon after her marriage to A. R. Price in February, 1884. The Prices moved to a farm near London Mills, Illinois, where their three sons and three daughters were born and reared. Mr. Price died in 1900, but Mrs. Price continued to manage the farm for many years and with great skill.

Mary Berry Price

Convention Keynotes:

Grand Chapter stepped forth cautiously into its first year. It was a year of study and planning, a year of experimentation to insure the careful growth of P.E.O. within an adequate framework. It was a good year destined to trigger the years of phenomenal growth that followed.

Legislation:

Revisions were made to both local and Grand Chapter constitutions. Three bylaws were added to the constitution of Grand Chapter but they are identified in the minutes only by number.

Finance:

1. An annual tax of 50 cents was levied on each P.E.O. There had never been dues in P.E.O. When money was needed, members taxed themselves the necessary amount. The phraseology still holds in the minutes of the 1884 convention, but the 50 cents was written into the constitution as dues.

2. Three bills were allowed amounting to $15.35.

Officers Elected:

President, Mrs. Mary Berry Price, Chapter I, Centerville
Home, London Mills, Illinois
First Vice President, Miss Ella Lamson, Chapter 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa
Second Vice President, Miss Pet Wallace, Chapter F, Bloomfield, Iowa
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Nellie A. Campbell, Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
Recording Secretary, Miss Hattie Wilson, Chapter J, Iowa City, Iowa
Treasurer, Miss Orian Pendleton, Chapter M, Moulton, Iowa

Miscellaneous:

A picture of the 1884 convention delegation, 50 members, appears on page 24 of The Story of P.E.O., 1869-1923.

October 15, 16, 17, 1885.
Ottumwa, Iowa
Armory Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; F, Bloomfield; I, Centerville; J, Iowa City; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; D, Oskaloosa; O, Albia, P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; 1st T, Grinnell.

Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois and Chapter R, York, Nebraska, sent no delegates but did send written reports that were read in convention.

New Chapters:

D, Oskaloosa, Iowa, reorganized October 4, 1884.
O, Albia, Iowa, August 30, 1884.
P, Keosauqua, Iowa, December 26, 1884.
Q, Washington, Iowa, February 6, 1885.
R, York, Nebraska, February 14, 1885.
S, Osceola, Iowa, August 1, 1885.
1st T, Grinnell, Iowa, August, 1885.

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Mary Berry Price, President.

Mrs. Price presided at all meetings except the last afternoon, leaving early for her home in London Mill, Illinois, where the Prices had moved after their marriage. Mrs. Alice Bird Babb presided at the last meeting.

Convention Keynotes:

Several events combined to make this a stunning convention. The first was the wedding of an Ottumwa P.E.O. held at the Methodist Church the evening before convention opened. All delegates and visiting P.E.O.'s were invited. The remainder of the evening was spent at the home of Mrs. Telfer where a social had been arranged.

By the second year of Grand Chapter, P.E.O. was ready to move, and did. It was an exciting year. Old chapters either organized or sponsored new ones. The influence of P.E.O. was beginning to extend itself beyond southeastern Iowa. There had been eight chapters at the beginning of the year. By convention time the number had almost doubled with the addition of one reorganized chapter and six new ones.

Chapter reports noted large memberships, good attendance at meetings, and emphasized literary programs. Several chapters had raised money to assist with community projects.

Legislation:

Many amendments were made to the constitution and bylaws. That became customary procedure at all conventions, with an occasional general revision. Alice Bird Babb, one of the founders, served on the Bylaw Committee.

The corresponding secretary, Nellie Ambler Campbell, was ill and could not be in convention. She sent a long detailed report that was incorporated into the minutes. Included in her report were 14 suggestions for revision of laws and policies. Some were discussed and acted on. Others were tabled until the next convention.

1. A specific order of business for Grand Chapter was adopted.

2. College P.E.O.'s at Iowa Wesleyan were granted permission to pledge girls without getting the consent of all other resident P.E.O.'s.

3. A possible change in letters was discussed at length but no change was made.

4. A plan was adopted to continue handling pins through one jeweler.

5. A plan was adopted for handling stationery from one source, if arrangements could be made.

Finance:

1. The treasurer reported $102.50 in the treasury. That was the beginning of financial self-sufficiency for Grand Chapter.

Officers Elected:

President, Miss Clara Weiny, Chapter F, Bloomfield.
1st Vice President, Miss Eva Denny, Chapter Q, Washington.
2nd Vice President, Miss Fannie Dibble, Chapter S, Osceola.
Recording Secretary, Miss Annie Cottle, Chapter 2nd B, Fairfield.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Nellie Campbell, Chapter A, Mount Pleasant.
Treasurer, Miss Orian Pendleton, Chapter M, Moulton.

Miscellaneous:

1. It was suggested that a catalogue of P.E.O.'s be printed.

2. Mrs. Campbell suggested printing a quarterly paper if it could be kept up and not allowed to die. Such a paper would be a great convenience in disseminating information and listing chapter memberships, but such a project entailed expense and funds were not yet available.

3. Mrs. Campbell had also secured reduced fares on several railroads for delegates attending the convention.

4. Chapters were urged to take up some philanthropic or public spirited enterprise, especially in the area of libraries.

5. A general plan for literary programs was considered but the president did not advise it.

6. Convention accepted the invitation of Chapter Q, Washington, Iowa, to hostess the 1886 convention of Grand Chapter.

7. A banquet Friday evening closed the P.E.O. convention activities for 1885.

October 13, 14, 15, 1886
Washington, Iowa
Masonic Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant, 2nd B, Fairfield; D, Oskaloosa; F, Bloomfield; I, Centerville; J, Iowa City; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; O, Albia; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; X, Sigourney; Y, Knoxville.

Nebraska, R, York; V, Fairfield.

Indiana, U, Thorntown.

Missouri, W, Unionville.

Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois, reported by letter.

New Chapters:

U, Thorntown, Indiana, March 26, 1886
V, Fairfield, Nebraska, March 31, 1886
W, Unionville, Missouri, May 8, 1886
X, Sigourney, Iowa, June 26, 1886
Y, Knoxville, Iowa, August 31, 1886

Presiding Officer: Miss Clara Weiny, President.

If any one thing characterized the 1886 convention of Grand Chapter, it was the competence with which the business of convention was organized and executed. For several years new ideas had been adopted rapidly. Now they needed to be set into motion and so they were at this convention.

Clara Weiny

The president, Miss Weiny, was a gracious, poised young woman with marked executive ability, a teacher by training and a talented musician. She taught music in the schools of Bloomfield while conducting private classes in piano and voice. She was initiated into P.E.O. by the Bloomfield chapter at age sixteen, and became president of Grand Chapter at age twenty-four. Her year as president of Grand Chapter marked a calm but firm step forward for P.E.O.

Convention Keynotes:

Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers proved to be an amazing feature of this, her first convention. She read the scriptures; she served on committees; she talked from the floor; and she happened to have a revised version of the initiation ceremony with her, although she was not a member of the Revision Committee. When officers were elected, Mrs. Rogers became president of Grand Chapter, a position she held for three years.

There was no lack of other outstanding women at this convention, women who also left their imprint on P.E.O. For example: Belle Brooks Lynch of Fairfield; Julia McKibbin of Keosauqua; Orian Pendleton of Moulton; Alice Spilman of Ottumwa; Mrs. A. R. Dewey of Washington; and Mrs. Jessie Mallery Thayer of Chariton. The last four became presidents of Grand Chapter. One might name a dozen others such as Ione Ambler, Effie Law, Annie Cottle, Lily Smith, Clara Worthington, and Louella Masters, all of whom served P.E.O. in countless ways.

Legislation:

1. Chapter representation was set as one delegate at large from each chapter and one for every 15 resident members.

2. It was voted to require local chapter delegates to present credentials (with their dues) at the beginning of each convention.

3. It was voted to approve minutes each morning of convention rather than at the following convention.

4. The word "judiciary" was changed to "judicial" in Article II of the constitution.

5. A revision to the initiation ceremony was adopted.

Mrs. Nellie Ambler Campbell, who wrote the initiation ceremony in 1881, suggested changes in the ceremony when she sent her report to the 1885 convention of Grand Chapter. Miss Weiny appointed a committee to see to this and also to make other suggestions if desired. Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers had written a revision of the ceremony. It was shown to the committee. They liked it, recommended it, and it was adopted.

6. There was a growing awareness of the role that P.E.O. might be called to play in the still-changing social structure of the late nineteenth century. Hence, the urgency in setting up an adequate constitutional framework.

At Mrs. Rogers' suggestion, a committee of five was appointed with authority to convene, consult, correspond and advise and, if they deemed feasible, to recommend legislation tending to the organization of a General Grand Chapter; and to provide for the establishment of State Grand Chapters; and to provide for forming chapters in territories where no State Grand Chapter existed. Committee members were Miss Pendleton of Moulton, Mrs. Rogers of Oskaloosa, Mrs. A. R. Dewey of Washington, Miss Mame Rice of Osceola, and Mrs. Belle Lynch of Fairfield.

Effie Hoffman Rogers had not participated in the original planning for Grand Chapter, nor had she attended the first three conventions. Minutes of Grand Chapter, and later articles in The P.E.O. Record, indicate that Effie's thinking did not encompass the original intent and philosophy of Grand Chapter. To her, Grand Chapter was little more than an Iowa State Chapter, since, inevitably, most of the members were from Iowa. Not quite clarified until 1892, such viewpoints led to misunderstanding that, for a time, shook the foundations of the Grand Chapter.

Finance:

1. Grand Chapter voted to assume one half of the expense of organizing new chapters.

2. It was voted to buy a typewriter.

3. It was voted to buy a seal for stamping charters and other legal documents.

4. A committee was appointed to draw up a contract with a Washington jeweler to furnish pins for $2.00 each. Committee members were Mrs. A. R. Dewey of Washington and Miss Orian Pendleton,

treasurer of Grand Chapter. Mrs. Dewey was appointed to receive all orders and buy the pins.

5. Grand Chapter voted to bond the treasurer for $300.
6. The treasurer reported $222.91 in the treasury.
7. Grand Chapter voted to place $100 on interest for six months.

Officers Elected:

President, Mrs. Effie H. Rogers, Chapter D, Oskaloosa, Iowa.
1st Vice President, Miss Louella Masters, Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana.
2nd Vice President, Miss Flo Waldon, Chapter I, Centerville, Iowa.
Recording Secretary, Miss Annie J. Cottle, Chapter 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. E. W. Mitchell, Chapter F, Bloomfield, Iowa.
Treasurer, Miss Orian Pendleton, Chapter M, Moulton, Iowa.

Miscellaneous:

1. Mrs. Rogers was appointed a committee of one on publications, the initial assignment being to publish "a catalogue of P.E.O.'s."

2. As in previous conventions, there was a short memorial service for deceased P.E.O.'s, with resolutions to be presented to the families of the deceased.

3. The object of P.E.O. was stated as mutual improvement; moral, social and intellectual development; and advancement of woman.

4. In this, as in preceding conventions, papers of historical, educational or inspirational nature were read; friendship and self-improvement were stressed; a worthy project for serving mankind was sought; and emphasis was placed on lifting P.E.O. to the highest possible plane, intellectually and culturally.

5. The invitation of Chapter O, Albia, to hostess the 1887 convention of Grand Chapter, was accepted.

6. A public reception was held Friday evening, the last day of convention, with members of Chapter Q, Washington, as hostesses. About 400 persons attended and it was described as a splendid affair.

October 12, 13, 14, 1887
Albia, Iowa
Knights of Pythias Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; D, Oskaloosa; F, Bloomfield; 2nd G, Farmington; I, Centerville; J, Iowa City; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; O, Albia; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; X, Sigourney; Y, Knoxville; Z, Chariton.

Nebraska, R, York; V, Fairfield

Indiana, U, Thorntown

Missouri, W, Unionville

Chapter 2nd E, Washington, D.C., reported by letter.

New Chapters:

Z, Chariton, Iowa, February 19, 1887
2nd E, Washington, D.C., April 5, 1887
3rd H, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1887
2nd K, Norfolk, Nebraska, September 27, 1887
2nd G, Farmington, Iowa, October 1, 1887
L, Bethany, Missouri, October 1, 1887.

Presiding Officer: Effie Hoffman Rogers, President.

Effie Hoffman became a P.E.O., November 9, 1870 while attending the Seminary at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She and Ella Stewart had been good friends several years before, when the Stewart family lived in Oskaloosa, Effie's hometown. After graduation Effie organized Chapter D in Oskaloosa. Then in 1880 she married John F. Rogers and moved to Kansas.

Effie Hoffman Rogers

So Effie was living in Kansas during the early eighties when Grand Chapter was planned and organized. After the death of her husband and son, she and her young daughter returned to Oskaloosa, Iowa, to make their home. She found her Chapter D inactive so she reorganized it October 4, 1884. Then in October, 1886, she became a delegate to the convention of Grand Chapter and her service to that organization began. Effie was a forceful, capable person with considerable experience in public education and in the publishing business. She was one who did easily and well whatever she found to do, and she found many things in P.E.O. Her influence was tremendous during the years she served as president of Grand Chapter and as the first editor of The P.E.O. Record.

Convention Keynotes:

This busy, well planned and well executed convention was marked with two unusual items of business in which two of the founders participated:

1. Early in convention a letter from Alice Coffin was read. For many years she had taught school in Newton, Iowa, and had lived either near or with her sister and family. She was not in good health during the autumn of 1887 and was visiting in the home of Ella Stewart in Mount Pleasant, where she had lived part of the time

when she attended Iowa Wesleyan University. It is quite likely that Ella took the following letter to convention:

> To the P.E.O. Sisterhood in convention at Albia, Iowa:
>
> I greet you as true sisters. May you raise the standard of true womanhood, elevate the fallen, help the weak, give smiles and kind words to the sorrowing, scatter sunshine as the June winds scatter rose blossoms, make light the burden of the oppressed. And may our badge of sincerity and friendship, "our star," be emblematic of the star of Bethlehem—a guide of our Sisterhood, to holier, purer and better things than earth can give, a guide to heaven. May we indeed be stars among women, in whatever vocation we are called to fill.
>
> With sincere love,
> Alice V. Coffin (2, p. 24 and 13a, p. 3)

A committee was appointed to return greetings and sympathy to Miss Coffin. Later in convention the committee presented resolutions thanking Miss Coffin for her message and expressing the hope her life would be spared to send many such messages of love. But that was not to be for Alice Coffin died the following July.

2. Ella Stewart, another P.E.O. founder, attended the 1887 convention and assumed an active part in the business proceedings. It was the first convention of Grand Chapter that recorded her presence. Ella presented a paper on the early history of P.E.O. that was incorporated into the minutes of convention. Her sister Anna's name appeared on the memorial roll.

Legislation:

1. The committee appointed at the previous convention to study the establishment and chartering of chapters on the various levels—national, state, local—presented no plan for legislation, but on motion the subject was brought before convention for discussion. Ella Stewart expressed the belief that there should be both state charters and a national charter. This plan was adopted and a committee appointed to procure state charters.

A suggestion was made that a state charter should be issued when there were five chapters in the state; otherwise the chapters would remain under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter.

2. Provision was made for proxy votes to be cast by any one delegate from a chapter provided she carried written instructions from the officers of her chapter.

3. Uniform copies of the local constitution and the initiation and installation ceremonies were ordered sent to all local chapters.

4. All copies of old constitutions and ceremonies were ordered sent to Miss Dell Parsons, Knoxville, Iowa, to be destroyed.

5. Plans for a burial service were approved.

Finance:

1. No typewriter was bought although funds for that purpose were allowed at the previous convention.

2. A seal was bought as ordered at the previous convention. The cost was $5.73 and the seal was used for the first time on the minutes of the 1887 convention of Grand Chapter. With P.E.O. on a star in the center, lettering on the top of the seal read: "Issued by Grand Chapter of." Lettering under the star read: "Organized January 21st, 1869." So the word "Sisterhood" was not used on the first seal.

3. Grand Chapter assumed all cost of organizing new chapters.

4. The cost of printing 500 catalogues was $18.00.

5. The committee on pins was ordered to buy up all surplus pins and, when that supply was exhausted, the committee was empowered to contract for more of uniform size.

6. A motion to print P.E.O. on pins in German script failed to carry.

7. The treasurer reported $368.67 in the treasury.

8. It was voted to pay $35.00 to the recording secretary the coming year. It was also voted to present her with $25.00 as a token of appreciation for past services.

[The work of the recording secretary necessitated her copying the minutes of convention in longhand and sending them to each active chapter.]

Officers Elected:

President, Mrs. Effie H. Rogers, Chapter D, Oskaloosa, Iowa
1st Vice President, Mrs. Alice Spilman, Chapter N, Ottumwa, Iowa
2nd Vice President, Miss Clem Wilde, Chapter R, York, Nebraska
Recording Secretary, Miss Annie J. Cottle, Chapter 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa
Corresponding Secretary, Miss Hattie B. Shields, Chapter O, Albia, Iowa
Treasurer, Miss Orian Pendleton, Chapter M, Moulton, Iowa

Miscellaneous:

1. A letter from Mrs. Julia McKibbin of Keosauqua was read, suggesting that a P.E.O. cook book be published. She offered to arrange the material for publication if corresponding secretaries of each chapter would send her recipes and household hints from members. On motion the plan was adopted.

2. Together with Mrs. Rogers, Ella Stewart presented the idea of the P.E.O. Sisterhood's establishing an industrial home for girls. At that time Ella was a teacher at the Iowa Industrial School for boys. A committee was appointed for further study. Chapters were urged to collect money which would be used for this purpose unless a more worthy work presented itself.

3. There was discussion about changing P.E.O. to a Greek letter society, but this was referred to a committee.

4. The invitation of Chapter P to hold the 1888 convention in Keosauqua was accepted.

5. The convention closed with song. So ended one of the most successful meetings ever held, due in large measure to the rare executive ability of the president, Mrs. Rogers.

6. Friday evening an elegant reception was given at the Opera House by Chapter O. Many guests were present from neighboring towns.

October 18, 19, 20, 1888
Keosauqua, Iowa
Masonic Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; F, Bloomfield; 2nd G, Farmington; I, Centerville; J, Iowa City; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; Z, Chariton; AA, Burlington; AC, Des Moines.

Nebraska, 2nd K, Norfolk; R, York; V, Fairfield

Indiana, U, Thorntown; AD, Knightstown

Missouri, W, Unionville

Illinois, AH, Jerseyville

New Chapters:

AA, Burlington, Iowa, November 29, 1887
AK, Oceanside, California, January 3, 1888
AB, Meade, Kansas, March 5, 1888
AC, Des Moines, Iowa, April 13, 1888
AD, Knightstown, Indiana, May 1, 1888
AF, Rock Rapids, Iowa, July 1888
AE, Lebanon, Indiana, August 31, 1888
AH, Jerseyville, Illinois, August 31, 1888
AG, Cameron, Missouri, October 12, 1888

Disbanded Chapters:

T, Grinnell, Iowa
B, Bethany, Missouri

Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois and D, Oskaloosa, Iowa, were given six months to build up their chapters.

Presiding Officer: Effie Hoffman Rogers, President.

Mrs. Rogers presided at all meetings of the convention. Again she proved her ability as a presiding officer. She adequately brought together the business of convention after a busy year in which nine new chapters were organized and extensive legislation, authorized at the previous convention, was set in motion.

Convention Keynotes:

1. The death of the founder, Alice Coffin, was a sad note at this convention. A service for her was included in the Memorial Hour. Although Alice enjoyed active participation in P.E.O. only the first year or two of its existence, she cherished her pin and everything for which it stood. She felt deeply the importance of the role of women in the world, both as to precept and example. She stressed those points in her letter to the 1887 convention of Grand Chapter. As Alice had requested, she was buried at Newton, Iowa, just as the sun was setting.

2. One of the papers read in this convention had been written by the founder Alice Bird Babb, a writer and speaker of great talent. The theme of the paper was, "Have an object in view and work toward the accomplishment of that object."

Legislation:

1. There was no report from the committee on charters, but Mrs. Rogers ruled that Iowa, meaning Grand Chapter, had issued charters to chapters in other states and had the right to do so until the states had Grand Chapters of their own. She suggested that eight chapters in a state should entitle it to a Grand Chapter.

Speaking of Grand Chapter as "Iowa" was representative of the misunderstanding that soon arose concerning the statutes of Grand Chapter. There were those who felt that Grand Chapter was merely an Iowa Grand (or State) Chapter, not the national or central governing body that it really was.

2. Only three chapters were found to have the proper instruction from their chapters for casting proxy votes.

3. Old gold and white were adopted as national colors.

4. Disciplinary problems sometimes demanded attention in this and other conventions of the late eighties. Occasionally expulsion resulted as a last resort. The following bylaw governing expulsion was presented by Chapter A and adopted by convention:

> Any member who frequently violates the Constitution and will not listen to the kindly admonition of the Sisters but persists in provoking the endurance of the Society shall be tried at any regular meeting of her own chapter and if three-fourths of all the members be in favor of suspension she may be suspended for six months, and at the end of that time, if they deem it best, she may be expelled. It may be her privilege, however, to appeal to the Grand Chapter whose decision shall be final.

5. Another bylaw was adopted stating that no member may withdraw from the Society and insist that she is no longer a P.E.O. unless by expulsion.

Finance:

1. Mr. Mace, a jeweler of Moulton, Iowa, had been furnishing P.E.O. pins for two years at a cost of $2.00 each with engraving. A

motion to continue the plan was adopted. Mr. Mace was the brother-in-law of Orian Pendleton, treasurer of Grand Chapter. His wife was a P.E.O. He continued as the official jeweler until his resignation in 1908.

2. The treasurer reported $531.53 in the treasury.

3. It was voted to establish a paper, or magazine, and to take the necessary amount from the treasury.

Surely it was faith, not adequate funds, that launched The P.E.O. Record. As true of many things in P.E.O., the project grew in response to a need. Communications between chapters were still by letter.

Minutes of conventions were hand written and the recording secretary made hand written copies for each chapter. As the number of chapters increased some other means of communication became necessary.

The possibility of publishing a paper, perhaps quarterly, was suggested by Nellie Ambler Campbell in her report to the 1885 convention of Grand Chapter, but no motion was made at that time for there were no funds for such a project. Funds were still meager but a delegate from Chapter A, probably May Brooks Snider, moved that P.E.O. publish a monthly paper. Mrs. Caroline Oglivie of Des Moines favored the project and spoke for it in convention. The vote was favorable.

Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers, Miss Nannie Torrence, and Mrs. Caroline M. Ogilvie were elected as a committee to make arrangements for the paper. A few hours later the committee reported to convention as follows: The paper was to be known as The P.E.O. Record. It was to be published monthly at Oskaloosa, Iowa, the home of Mrs. Rogers, and the subscription price was set at 75 cents a year. Mrs. Rogers had been chosen as editor-in-chief at a salary of $40 a month. She was to select her own assistants.

After careful discussion the vote was in favor of adopting the report and money was voted from the treasury to launch the project. Mrs. Alice Bird Babb and Mrs. Caroline M. Oglivie were named assistant editors. January, 1889, was set as the publication date of the first issue.

Officers Elected:

President, Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers, Chapter D, Oskaloosa, Iowa
1st Vice President, Mrs. Alice Spilman, Chapter N, Ottumwa, Iowa
2nd Vice President, Mrs. Helen Dunnington, Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana
Recording Secretary, Miss Annie J. Cottle, Chapter 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa
Corresponding Secretary, Miss Effie R. McBeth, Chapter P, Keosauqua, Iowa
Treasurer, Miss Orian Pendleton, Chapter I, Centerville, Iowa

Miscellaneous:

1. The previous convention voted to publish a cook book and Mrs. Julia McKibbin of Keosauqua offered to prepare the manuscript

for publication if chapters would send recipes and household hints to her. Few recipes were sent in so, after members of convention voted to publish a monthly paper, "the cook book was laid on the table."

2. Plans for an industrial school for girls were dropped since many chapters had taken no action on the proposed project.

3. A letter was read from Chapter 2nd E, Washington, D.C., asking that national headquarters might be established there. Convention voted against appropriating funds for headquarters at that time.

4. A committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of making P.E.O. a Greek-letter society.

5. Convention voted to send greetings to the I.C. Society assembled in convention in Ottumwa.

6. The committee for the destruction of old ceremonies and constitutions gave a detailed report of papers destroyed. Many papers of historical value must have been destroyed as a concession to uniformity of laws and ceremonies.

On motion, Chapter A was permitted to retain its book of ceremonies and the old constitution.

7. Self improvement, which might be called P.E.O.'s first project, was reflected in the ten thought-provoking papers presented at this three-day convention.

8. This was election year. For a bit of fun a straw vote was taken for president of the United States, resulting as follows: Cleveland, 9; Fisk, 2; Belva Lockwood, 2; Streater, 1; Harrison, 32. It would be presumptuous to class this small vote with the famed polls of later eras, but it predicted correctly. Benjamin Harrison was elected president of the United States the following month.

9. Invitations were accepted for Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, to hostess the 1889 convention, and Chapter AA, Burlington, to hostess the 1890 convention.

10. On Friday evening guests were entertained at an elegant reception and banquet held at the Masonic Hall, with members of Chapter P as hostesses.

October 16, 17, 18, 1889
Mount Pleasant, Iowa
P.E.O. Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; F, Bloomfield; 2nd G, Farmington; 3rd H, Council Bluffs; J, Iowa City; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; X, Sigourney; Y, Knoxville; Z, Chariton; AA, Burlington; AC, Des Moines, AJ, Mount Pleasant; AO, Keokuk

Nebraska, 1st R, York; AL, Superior; AN, Omaha; AP, Plattsmouth
Missouri, W, Unionville; AG, Cameron
Indiana, U, Thorntown
Kansas, AB, Meade

The 26 participating chapters were not recorded in the minutes but did appear in The P.E.O. Record, November, 1889.

New Chapters:

AI, Cedar Falls, Iowa, January 26, 1889
AJ, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, February 4, 1889
AL, Superior, Nebraska, April 10, 1889
AM, Garden Grove, Iowa, May 4, 1889
1st AN, Omaha, Nebraska, June 1, 1889
AO, Keokuk, Iowa, September 2, 1889
1st AP, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, September 6, 1889
1st AQ, Hastings, Nebraska, October 2, 1889

Disbanded Chapters:

C, Jacksonville, Illinois, 1888 or 1889
D, Oskaloosa, Iowa, 1889 or 1890

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers, President

This was the third convention of Grand Chapter at which Mrs. Rogers presided. During her third year as president she also served as editor of The P.E.O. Record. She was a forceful, competent person with a tremendous capacity for work. Twenty-three new chapters were added during Effie's three-year presidency, two were disbanded, leaving a total of 41. The work of Grand Chapter had more than doubled.

Convention Keynotes:

1. The year of 1889 marked the twentieth anniversary of the founding of P.E.O., Chapter A having been organized at Mount Pleasant, January 21, 1869. On February 4, 1889, another chapter appeared in Mount Pleasant: Chapter AJ, the new college chapter at Iowa Wesleyan. Chapter AJ assisted Chapter A in entertaining the convention of Grand Chapter.

2. The memorial roll at the 1889 convention included the name of Mrs. Nellie Ambler Campbell, of Chapter A, who advocated the organization of a central governing body and served as advisor throughout the organization of Grand Chapter, and through the several years that immediately followed.

3. All meetings except one were held in P.E.O. Hall, the large beautiful room on the second floor of the Saunders building. It was acquired, decorated and furnished by members of Chapter A. The Saunders building was on the west side of the square where the Henry County Bank now stands (1968). A reception for delegates was held there Tuesday evening preceding the opening of convention. According to the minutes, toasts, music, and recitations were the order of the evening.

Miss Ella Stewart, one of the founders responded to the toast "P.E.O.'s Twenty Years Ago." Newspapers and The P.E.O. Record reported Ella's talk as follows:

> We wish all might have heard it, as it abounded in beautiful imagery. [It was a] graceful tribute to the seven noble girls in whose hearts the idea of our Sisterhood originated, and by whose loving, helpful hands the seed was planted, tenderly nourished and cared for, and from which has grown the strong and beautiful tree whose fruits we all enjoy (10, Nov. '89, p. 182).

Mrs. Effie Rogers responded to the toast "P.E.O.'s Twenty Years Hence." Her talk was lauded by the press as follows:

> The character of prophetess becomes her well.....that the delightful future which she predicted in local chapters being established in each community, Grand Chapters in every State, the power and influence of true P.E.O. being felt all over our fair land may speedily come to pass, is the hearty wish of the entire audience who listened to her address, the smoothness and beauty of which was very charming" (10, Nov. '89, p. 182).

4. The open meeting in the college chapel Wednesday evening attracted a large audience. Devotions were conducted by the Reverend Mr. McDonald followed by music and a dramatic reading. According to newspaper reports, "the interest of the evening centered around the three papers presented by three married ladies of mature intellect." These papers were Labor, The Basis for Development by Mrs. Curryer of Thorntown, Indiana; The Demands of Justice by Mrs. W. I. Babb of Mount Pleasant; and Our Progress, the president's address by Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers of Oskaloosa, Iowa. Mrs. Babb, one of the P.E.O. founders "reaped a large harvest of compliments for the excellence of her subject matter" (10, Nov. '89, p. 180).

Legislation:

1. Sixty-seven delegates and officers were registered, with the following chapters authorized to cast proxy votes: F, 4 votes; H, 3 votes; Q, 1 vote; J, 1 vote; AG, 1 vote; U, 3 votes.

2. The new college chapter, AJ, requested some kind of a pledge ceremony, since other organizations on the campus pledged prospective members until they could be initiated. That was granted and a committee of five—Mrs. Thayer, Mrs. Babb, Mrs. Zeizer, Mrs. Lynch and Miss Gregg—presented a ceremony which was adopted.

3. There was discussion concerning the disposition of the pin of a deceased P.E.O. A motion was adopted permitting the pin to be buried with her, "unless a request to the contrary be made, in which case the local chapter should dispose of the pin as it deems best."

4. A motion was passed requiring an inactive member to pay all Grand Chapter dues to date before she could be reinstated.

5. A method for amending the constitution was adopted.

6. Convention voted to require eight chapters in a state before a State Grand Chapter may be organized.

7. There were only seven chapters in Nebraska then. Another was organized at Holdrege, December 14, 1889 and one at Wahoo, January 24, 1890. Four Nebraska delegates, representing Chapters AL, AN, AP and R, were in attendance at the 1889 convention. Minutes do not record who made the motion to establish a Nebraska Grand Chapter, but other source material credits Alice Cary Brooks Briggs as being the spokesman for the Nebraska chapters. The motion was made and recorded as follows: "Motion carried that Nebraska be set aside and granted [permission] to organize a State Grand Chapter of its own. It will still be under the jurisdiction of the present Grand Chapter which will now grant all charters."

Finance:

1. The treasurer, Miss Orian Pendleton, reported $318.14 in the treasury.

2. Grand Chapter accepted the invitation of the trustees of the Bluff Park Chautauqua Association to furnish a day's program at the park during the 1890 season. It was recommended that a band be engaged and that a tax be imposed on P.E.O. members to pay necessary expenses.

3. The P.E.O. Record was instantly popular with subscribers. As a means of communication it answered a real need. Making the project self-supporting was quite another matter.

Mrs. Rogers' report to this convention (1889), covered the first ten months of publication. There were 451 subscribers. The 4,850 copies issued in ten months had cost $378.50. It had cost $6.37 to mail the ten issues. A detailed account of receipts and expenditures was given, with Mrs. Rogers estimating the actual cost per copy to be 6 3/4 cents. It was at once apparent that 75 cents would not adequately cover a year's subscription.

In addition to editing the magazine Mrs. Rogers had also handled some of the mechanical work as indicated in her report: "In order to get these papers ready I have in ten months done 26,666 yards of stitching. After stitching, the covers are pasted on. They are trimmed, addressed and mailed. In this work I have never had any assistance."

The editor suggested that the subscription price be raised to $1.00 per year, that 300 more subscribers were needed, and that advertising alone, with no great effort, should pay for the publication.

Mrs. Rogers was unanimously re-elected editor of The P.E.O. Record with Mrs. Babb as assistant editor. Beginning with January 1890, Mrs. Winifred Connett of Superior, Nebraska, also served as an assistant editor.

Officers Elected:

Mrs. Alice Bird Babb was unanimously elected president. She thanked convention for the honor and expression of good will, but because of family and health could not accept the office.

President, Miss Nannie Torrence, X, Sigourney, Iowa
1st Vice President, Mrs. A. P. Hanchett, 3rd H, Council Bluffs, Iowa
2nd Vice President, Mrs. Helen Dunnington, U, Thorntown, Indiana
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ella K. Dinwiddie, A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
Recording Secretary, Miss Annie J. Cottle, 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa
Treasurer, Miss Orian Pendleton, I, Centerville, Iowa

Miscellaneous:

1. A long detailed account of old papers destroyed during the year was given by Dell Parsons, the one member committee.

2. The Seminary Book of old ceremonies was handed to the secretary "to be kept with papers."

3. P.E.O.'s learned that Dr. McFarland, President of Iowa Wesleyan University, had "lifted" the pins of three P.E.O.'s in Chapter AJ. A committee called upon him. He assured the ladies that two of the pins would be returned at the end of the fall term, and the third one when the owner's grade came up to standard.

4. A suggestion was made by Chapter U of Thorntown, Indiana, that printed dimit cards be used. (Spelling "dimit" adopted 1907.)

5. The question box, part of all conventions, stimulated helpful information.

6. A special military drill on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan was arranged for the entertainment of visiting P.E.O.'s by Major A. Dinwiddie. Mrs. Dinwiddie was initiated into Chapter A in 1869, while a sophomore at Iowa Wesleyan. She was Ella Killpatrick, often referred to in the minutes as "Ella Kill." Suela Pearson and Ella were in the same class and were good friends.

7. Convention of 1890 was scheduled to meet in Burlington, Iowa, with members of Chapter AA as hostesses.

8. The last evening of convention was a gala occasion in Mount Pleasant:

> Friday evening a reception was tendered the delegates and visiting Sisters at the beautiful home of Senator Harlan. The flower decorations were especially attractive. Several pieces, emblematic of the order, were presented by the young men of Mt. Pleasant. After refreshments and a season of social enjoyment an opportunity was given at the Opera House to those who indulge the Terpsichorean Muse. Several hundred guests were present. All pronounced the evening a decided success (13a, p. 14).

October 15, 16, 17, 1890
Burlington, Iowa
Odd Fellows Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; 2nd C, Leon; F, Bloomfield; 2nd G, Farmington; I, Centerville; N, Ottumwa; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; 2nd T, What Cheer; X, Sigourney; Y, Knoxville; Z, Chariton; AA, Burlington; AC, Des Moines; AI, Cedar Falls; AJ, Mount Pleasant; AM, Garden Grove; AO, Keokuk; AV, Oskaloosa.

Nebraska, 2nd K, Norfolk; AL, Superior; 1st AP, Plattsmouth.

Indiana, U, Thorntown; AD, Knightstown

Missouri, W, Unionville; AG, Cameron

Kansas, AB, Meade

New Chapters:

1st AR, Holdrege, Nebraska, December 14, 1889
2nd L, Des Moines, Iowa, January 3, 1890
AS, Wahoo, Nebraska, January 24, 1890
C, Leon, Iowa, January 31, 1890
AV, Oskaloosa, Iowa, June 9, 1890
2nd T, What Cheer, Iowa, July 12, 1890
AW, Detroit, Michigan, October 8, 1890
AT, Waterloo, Iowa, October 11, 1890
4th H, Hopkins, Missouri, October , 1890.

Disbanded Chapters:

3rd H, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1890.

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Nannie Torence Stockman, President.

Nannie Torrence Stockman

Nannie Torrence was an educator of note in the state of Iowa. She possessed the rare ability to encompass many things. That was fortunate, for the year of 1890 made many demands upon her time and talents. It was said that she rested by changing work, which must have been true. The presidency of Grand Chapter added a large work load to her already full schedule. Then in March, 1890, she was married to D. L. Stockman, an attorney at Sigourney. In August she was the "life and spirit of a most . . . successful P.E.O. Day at Bluff Park, Iowa, Chautauqua," and in October, presided at the three-day convention of Grand Chapter held at Burlington, Iowa.

According to Mrs. Reeves, it was Nannie Stockman who wrote the prayer used in chapter meetings (6, b, p. 88).

Convention Keynotes:

At the time of this convention, mid-October, 1890, there were P.E.O. chapters in Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, California, Michigan and Washington, D.C. Iowa had 27 chapters, all other states 20, and 11 chapters had been disbanded. (See chart in Chapter 7, Expansion.)

There were those who felt that Grand Chapter, with the predominance of local chapters from Iowa, was more like an Iowa Grand Chapter than a national one, although every effort had been made to function on a national level. Numerically, it would be many years before another state equalled Iowa. Consequently, though unintentionally, Iowa's influence was sure to be felt, even on the national level. Uncertainty persisted, in the minds of a few, as to the status of Grand Chapter. So there was talk at this convention of the need for a National Grand Chapter, an Iowa Grand Chapter or possibly both, although the laws of Grand Chapter seemed clear on this. But issues were not clearly defined and three years were to pass before they were adequately resolved.

Legislation:

1. The organization of the first state chapter, the Nebraska Grand Chapter as it was called, occurred at Omaha, Nebraska, April 2, 1890, in the home of Mrs. Jennie Bryant. Mrs. Nannie Stockman, president of Grand Chapter, was the organizing officer. Permission had been granted by Grand Chapter at the 1889 convention when Nebraska had only seven chapters. Holdrege was added in December and Wahoo in January.

Nebraska Chapters existing at the time of the state organization were:

R, York—New A
V, Fairfield—New B
K, Norfolk—New C
AL, Superior—New D
AN, Omaha—New E
AP, Plattsmouth—New F
AQ, Hastings—New G
AR, Holdrege—New H
AS, Wahoo—New I

Minutes of the organization meeting were read by the Nebraska president, Mrs. Alice Briggs, in the 1890 convention of Grand Chapter. Mrs. Margaret Burrows and Miss Lena Knott were delegates from the Nebraska Grand Chapter.

Nebraska P.E.O.'s though new and inexperienced, were enthusiastic and ready to move ahead; but there were no rules to define the duties of state chapters, and Grand Chapter was slow to make new rules under which the Nebraska Grand Chapter officers might function. Thus a difficult situation was created, one not remedied immediately.

2. One unique feature of the 1890 convention was the move to establish a National Grand Chapter of P.E.O. A motion to that effect carried and a committee was appointed to bring in nominations for national officers. The report was adopted and later in convention the following nominees for National Grand Chapter officers were elected and installed:

> President, Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers; First Vice President, Mrs. Alice Briggs; Second Vice President, Mrs. Nannie Stockman; Third Vice President, Mrs. Ella Higley; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Jessie M. Thayer; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary Houseworth; and Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Dunnington.

They were competent, experienced women who would have made a strong group of officers in any organization, but no further provision was made to transform the existing Grand Chapter—national in every sense except name—into a new National Grand Chapter. So the matter fell into "innocuous desuetude."

3. Chapter F, Bloomfield, was granted the same form of pledge as used by Chapter AJ. Iowa Normal Institute furnished most of the membership for Chapter F.

For the most part, rules were made as needed. The following one is a good example:

4. No chapters may be formed in a city where one already exists without the consent of the existing chapter, all chapters to be free and independent of each other.

5. "Motion carried that as States are set aside their chapters be lettered A, B, C, D, etc., naming the State."

6. Several significant changes were made to the initiation ceremony, as suggested by Chapter Q, Washington, Iowa.

7. Representation of subordinate chapters to convention of Grand Chapter was established as one vote at large and one for every 15 resident members having paid Grand Chapter dues. This was in accordance with other local chapters, but conversely, limitations were set as follows: Subordinate chapters shall be represented in Grand Chapter by not more than two delegates, who shall cast the entire vote for the chapter if instructed to do so.

8. A motion carried to establish an entertainment bureau, vested in one person. Miss Kellogg of Garden Grove, Iowa, was appointed.

9. A Burial Ritual was adopted as written and presented by the committee, Jessie M. Thayer of Chariton, Ella Randel of Ottumwa, and Alice Bird Babb of Mount Pleasant.

Finance:

1. Grand Chapter dues of 50 cents per capita were made payable March 1.

2. The P.E.O. Record had managed to pay for itself the second year except for 95 cents due the editor. A committee recommended that The Record be continued for another year at the same subscription price; that a strong effort be made to improve it; that the salary of the editor be reduced from $40 to $25 per month; that every effort be made during the year to make The Record self-supporting and if, at the end of the year, it should not be on a self-supporting basis, it be discontinued. Mrs. Rogers was elected editor for another year but did not accept the position. She asked that the convention support Miss Mary Osmond of Osceola who was not in convention. That was done and Miss Osmond accepted later.

3. Bluff Park was located on the Mississippi River east of Burlington, Iowa. P.E.O. Day, held there August 13, 1890, cost approximately $145. Much of the expense was covered by the per capita tax or assessment levied at the previous convention. The Boat Club Band of Burlington, hired for the day, cost $100—$80 for the band services and $20 for railroad transportation to the Bluff Park Chautauqua grounds. Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Company required a guarantee of $100 to run a special train, but $55 was returned later. The remaining $45 was voted from the treasury of Grand Chapter to reimburse the committee. The per capita tax or assessment collected from local chapters covered band expense.

4. The report of the treasurer showed a balance of $109.09.

Officers Elected:

President, Miss Orian Pendleton, Chapter I, Centerville, Iowa
1st Vice President, Mrs. A. R. Dewey, Chapter Q, Washington, Iowa
2nd Vice President, Mrs. Joe Blanchard, Chapter AV, Oskaloosa, Iowa
Recording Secretary, Miss Annie J. Cottle, Chapter 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ella K. Dinwiddie, Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
Treasurer, Mrs. Ellie C. Buttles, Chapter AA, Burlington, Iowa

Miscellaneous:

1. Scattered across the prairies of the Middle West, some two thousand P.E.O.'s welcomed the advent of the Chautauqua movement. That was not surprising. Self improvement and education for women were basic concepts of P.E.O. Culture was welcomed wherever it could be found, and summer Chautauqua, as well as the winter lyceum course, brought culture to the prairies.

For nearly fifty years around the turn of the century, the Chautauqua summer program was a unique and popular event. It was originated at Chautauqua, New York, in 1874 by the Methodist

Summer Sunday School Institute, and soon developed into an eight-week course of lectures in arts, sciences, humanities, and religion. Before many years it had spread to other cultural centers across the country. In addition to permanent camp grounds there were regular Chautauqua circuits and companies, with towns scheduling a week of programs. Many families camped at the grounds all week, attending all or part of the programs.

P.E.O. Day at the Bluff Park Chautauqua was August 13, 1890. It was considered a literary, educational and musical triumph. However, it had caused some anxious moments, financially, so P.E.O. declined the invitation to return for a day during the 1891 season. The following account is quoted from The P.E.O. Record of September, 1890. It was also reprinted in the White History in 1903:

> August 13th was a day long to be rememberd by the P.E.O.'s as a day of success and pleasure. Many of the Bluff Park cottages were beautifully decorated in gold and white draperies and gilded stars, and the tabernacle looked very beautiful decked in the dainty colors, white flags, and banners flying, bearing the mysterious letters P.E.O. The crowd in attendance was very large. Every train brought P.E.O.'s and friends interested in the P.E.O. Society. A special train from Burlington brought up about seventy members and the Boat Club Band.
>
> The morning session began at 10:30, and after the opening ode, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," the audience was led in prayer by Prof. Ferguson, of Mt. Pleasant. Following this was a song service conducted by Prof. Sheets. Next in order was an address by Miss May Hillhouse, of Chapter AA, on the subject, "Be Happy as You Can," following which was a duet, "Cheerfulness," by Miss Clara A. McFarland, Chapter A, and Laura O'Neill, Chapter AA. "Blanche of Devon," by Miss May Cherry, of Keokuk, elicited unbounded applause (2, p. 57).

Following the trend of the times, the afternoon and evening programs consisted of speeches, solos, and recitations, interspersed with music by the Boat Club Band.

2. The convention of 1890 began with an informal reception. It ended with a brilliant one held in the Commercial Club rooms with close to 500 guests. Refreshments were served in Odd Fellows Hall, and the Board of Trade rooms were thrown open for dancing.

October 14, 15, 16, 1891
Fairfield, Iowa
Odd Fellows Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; 2nd B, Fairfield; 2nd C, Leon; F, Bloomfield; 2nd G, Farmington; I, Centerville; J, Iowa City; 3rd K, Bonaparte; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; O, Albia; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; 2nd T, What Cheer; X, Sigourney; Y, Knoxville; Z, Chariton; AA, Burlington; AC, Des Moines; AI, Cedar Falls; AJ, Mount Pleasant; AM, Garden Grove; AO, Keokuk; AT, Waterloo; AV, Oskaloosa.

Nebraska, Mrs. Winnie Durland of Chapter C, Norfolk, represented the 9 existing Nebraska chapters, having been elected a delegate by the Nebraska Grand Chapter in June.

Missouri, B, Memphis

Kansas, AB, Meade

Illinois, AH, Jerseyville

Michigan, AW, Detroit

Thirty chapters were reported at the opening of convention. Later four more were granted seats in convention, one delegate being Mrs. Winnie Durland, the representative from Nebraska who arrived with credentials to the convention of the National Grand Chapter.

New Chapters:

B, Escondido, California, October 29, 1890
AY, Ames, Iowa, August 3, 1891
B, Memphis, Missouri, August 24, 1891
3rd K, Bonaparte, Iowa, September 1, 1891
J, Nelson, Nebraska, September 1, 1891
2nd R, Hampton, Iowa, September 28, 1891

Three chapters above—B, California; B, Missouri; and J, Nebraska—are listed according to state lettering. No original lettering has yet been found for these three chapters.

Presiding Officer: Miss Orian Pendleton, President.

Miss Pendleton, a member of Chapter I, Centerville, Iowa, was a former charter member of Chapter M, Moulton. She served six years as treasurer of Grand Chapter, the first president to hold another office before her election to the presidency.

Miss Pendleton, who possessed rare skill as a presiding officer, was a devoted P.E.O., conscientious, considerate, diplomatic, well liked, and well informed. She handled the work of a difficult year with intelligence and she kept the peace. Near the close of the convention Mrs. Spilman, in behalf of Grand Chapter, presented Miss Pendleton with a jeweled P.E.O. pin as a token of appreciation and esteem. She was unanimously re-elected president but found it necessary to decline.

Orian Pendleton

Convention Keynotes:

1. There was an air of good will about this convention, despite the trends and uncertainties that, slowly but inevitably, were forcing decisions upon this yet small group of P.E.O.'s. The Nebraska Grand Chapter, authorized by the convention of 1889, was organized April 2, 1890. Then, gradually, it became apparent that no one knew quite what to do with this strange child. Uncertainties arose. After much discussion, the 1891 convention of Grand Chapter passed two resolutions that helped to clarify minor points, but still no legislation clearly defined the functions and jurisdiction of the three forms of government: local, state, and the Grand Chapter. Most troublesome perhaps was the lack of directives for state chapter operation. The real issue had not been met when the Nebraska Grand Chapter was organized, nor was it met at this convention. Mrs. Winnie Durland, a splendid representative for Nebraska, participated freely in discussions concerning the status of Nebraska Grand Chapter.

2. There were those who wondered what should be done about the officers of National Grand Chapter elected at the 1890 convention but given neither an organization nor power to act. Delegates from the Nebraska Grand Chapter, and some others as well, hoped to see the completion of an organization that might be called the National Grand Chapter. Perhaps then the present Grand Chapter would become the Iowa Grand Chapter, as some already considered it. Grand Chapter had even been called the Iowa Grand Chapter in the report of the previous convention printed in The P.E.O. Record. That was erroneous since no Iowa Grand Chapter existed until October, 1893.

Three sets of officers had been printed on the cover of The P.E.O. Record from January to October, 1891. After that, national officers were omitted since there was no National Grand Chapter.

There was confusion, too, in the nomenclature of the various chapters with Grand Chapter used as part of the names of both national and state units. Clearly, something must be done, but no action was taken until the convention of 1892.

Legislation:

1. Proxy votes were still in force and a convention committee passed on their legality as needed.

2. The recording secretary was instructed to destroy papers of disbanded chapters.

3. By motion it was agreed that any chapter wishing to initiate a woman in another town, with an existing chapter, must obtain the willing consent of all members of that chapter.

Like many rules, the one above seems to have been passed to meet a specific need.

4. An amendment was adopted giving state chapters power over local chapters in the state, provided the state chapter did not change the ritual or ceremonies without the consent of other state chapters.

5. Nebraska Grand Chapter was granted equal representation with Grand Chapter, but no voice in local chapter affairs outside of Nebraska.

Finance:

1. Annual dues were increased from 50 cents to 75 cents per capita.

2. It was voted that Nebraska Grand Chapter should bear a share of the expense of the Grand Chapter proportionate to her representation.

3. It was voted to charge organizing chapters a charter fee of $3.00, payable to Grand Chapter.

4. Amendments were made restricting officers of Grand Chapter to a sum not to exceed $10.00 in payment of bills when Grand Chapter was not in session to authorize same. Grand Chapter, in turn, could not allow bills without the approval of the Finance Committee.

5. The report of the treasurer showed a balance of $274.05.

6. The P.E.O. Record, although not yet self-supporting, was recognized to be of "inestimable value" to the organization. The editor, Mary Osmond, had produced a monthly magazine of high quality and had done it economically—$297.51 plus her salary of $25 per month. The cost to Grand Chapter was $204.50, about half of the total for the previous year. As an economy measure, no P.E.O. Record was issued in September, 1891. It was voted to continue The Record for another year, and Miss Osmond was re-elected editor by unanimous vote.

Officers Elected:

President, Mrs. A. R. Dewey, Chapter Q, Washington, Iowa.
1st Vice President, Mrs. A. E. Clark, Chapter AC, Des Moines, Iowa
2nd Vice President, Mrs. W. R. Durland, Chapter C, Norfolk, Nebraska
Recording Secretary, Miss Dixie Cornell, Chapter Y, Knoxville, Iowa
Corresponding Secretary, Miss Ella Randel, Chapter N, Ottumwa, Iowa
Treasurer, Miss Ella C. Buttles, Chapter AA, Burlington, Iowa

Miscellaneous:

1. A motion to adopt a uniform plan for literary work was passed.

2. The entertainment bureau, established the year before, had not been too enthusiastically received. Miss Kellogg, chairman, reported about 50 letters received to which she had responded "the best she could."

3. The name of Mrs. Suda Weaver Payne appeared on the memorial list. Mrs. Payne was an 1870 initiate of Chapter A, who later transferred her membership to Chapter F, Bloomfield. Her husband,

Dillon Payne, was a member of The Lifebloods, the class of 1869 at Iowa Wesleyan.

4. The name of Mrs. Mace was mentioned in the minutes of this and several previous conventions. She was a sister of Miss Orian Pendleton and the wife of the jeweler at Moulton, Iowa, who furnished the P.E.O. pins for many years.

5. A motion was adopted requesting hostess chapters to do away with the banquet at the close of convention.

6. Convention accepted the invitation of Chapters AC and L to hold the 1892 convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

October 12, 13, 14, 1892
Des Moines, Iowa
Christian Church

Chapters Represented:

Names of delegates to conventions of Grand Chapter are not listed in the minutes. However, delegates who attended the 1892 convention are listed on pages 68-70 of the White History, printed in 1903. The list, though not quite complete, is believed to be authentic for Mrs. A. R. Dewey, chairman of the History Committee, was also president of Grand Chapter in 1892 and presided at that crucial convention. Names of delegates are included below for they are the women from five states who brought P.E.O. safely through a challenging time in her history.

Iowa

A, Mount Pleasant: Mrs. W. I. Babb, Mrs. A. L. Punton.
B, Fairfield: Mrs. Carrie Stubbs, Alice L. Held.
2nd C, Leon: Olive B. Caster.
F, Bloomfield: Belle Traverse, Mary Davies.
2nd G, Farmington: Florence Kelley.
I, Centerville: Mrs. Josie F. Smith, Orian Pendleton.
J, Iowa City: Mrs. C. A. Byington, Mrs. Ida Swisher.
3rd K, Bonaparte: Ida McConnaughey.
2nd L, East Des Moines: Daisy Green, Laura Fitch.
M, Moulton: Kate Hubler, Lou E. Hornady.
N, Ottumwa: Mrs. Alice Spilman, Mrs. Mame White.
O, Albia: Vesta Boardman.
P, Keosauqua: Margaret Brown, Harriet Sloan.
Q, Washington: Mrs. F. L. Wilson, Eva Denney.
2nd R, Hampton: Natallia Hemingway, Belle S. Haecker.
S, Osceola: Sara H. Carter, Nellie Painter.
2nd T, What Cheer: Mary C. Platt, Myra Burlingame.
X, Sigourney: Gertrude Adams, Grace Harlan.
Y, Knoxville: Mrs. Kate Wilson, Mrs. Lou Donley.
Z, Chariton: Mrs. Lizzie Smythe, Jessie M. Thayer.
AA, Burlington: Mrs. Kate Boeck.

AC, Des Moines: Mrs. G. L. Godfrey, Mrs. Luella McHenry, Mrs. D. G. Edmundson.
AI, Cedar Falls: Mrs. C. N. Boehmler.
AJ, Mount Pleasant: Marcia Earnest.
AM, Garden Grove: Louise Flannagan, Lucy Neilson.
AO, Keokuk: Mrs. W. H. Bowman, Miss Lou E. Boyer.
2nd AP, Milton: Ida L. George.
2nd AQ, Clarinda: Mary Butler, Mrs. Mary B. Clark.
2nd AR, Atlantic: Bertha C. Morrison.
AT, Waterloo: Siddie E. Richards, Della M. Platt.
AU, Winterset: S. Marie Lyons.
AV, Oskaloosa: Mrs. Walter Campbell, Dora L. White.
AY, AMES: Mrs. Dora S. Osborn.

Nebraska

A, York: Virginia Corbett.
D, Superior: Mrs. Alice C. Briggs.
E, Omaha: Mrs. F. B. Bryant.
G, Hastings: Mrs. Kittie M. J. Dutton, Mrs. Grace B. Kipp.
H, Holdrege: Mrs. Dora C. McNaul.
I, Wahoo: Mrs. Anna Wyckoff.

The second vice president, Mrs. W. R. Durland, was a member of Chapter C, Norfolk, Nebraska, disbanded in May, 1892.

Nebraska chapters were re-lettered after the organization of Nebraska Grand Chapter on April 2, 1890.

Missouri

4th H, Hopkins: Bertha Wray, Susan Strain.
W, Unionville: Nina Shearer.
AG, Cameron: Miss Mary V. Craig.
B, Memphis (Missouri Lettering): Helen Baker, Mrs. R. D. Cramer.

Indiana

U, Thorntown: Mrs. Ida Matthews.

Kansas

AB, Meade: Miss Jennie Hudson.
Not listed in the White History, but minutes of the 1892 convention record her taking an active part in convention activities.
2nd AN, Lyons: Hattie W. Marshall.

Officers of Grand Chapter were: Mrs. A. R. Dewey, Chapter Q, Washington, Iowa, president; Mrs. A. E. Clark, Chapter AC, Des Moines, Iowa, first vice president; Mrs. W. R. Durland, Chapter C, (disbanded) Norfolk, Nebraska, second vice president; Miss Dixie

Cornell, Chapter Y, Knoxville, Iowa, recording secretary; Miss Ella Randel, Chapter N, Ottumwa, Iowa, corresponding secretary; and Miss Ella C. Buttles, Chapter AA, Burlington, Iowa, treasurer.

New Chapters:

2nd V, LaCrosse, Kansas, December 18, 1891
2nd AN, Lyons, Kansas, December 21, 1891
AZ, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, February 15, 1892
2nd AP, Milton, Iowa, March 9, 1892
2nd AQ, Clarinda, Iowa, May 3, 1892
2nd AR, Atlantic, Iowa, June 6, 1892
C, Los Angeles (California Lettering), August 20, 1892
AU, Winterset, Iowa, August 24, 1892
AX, West Liberty, Iowa, September 2, 1892
--, Glenwood, Missouri
Listed on P.E.O. Record cover—April, 1892 to November, 1892

Disbanded Chapters:

C, Norfolk, Nebraska, disbanded May, 1892, according to the White History, p. 266.
AK, Oceanside, California, disbanded by 1892.

Presiding Officer: Mrs. A. R. Dewey, President

Mrs. A. R. Dewey, as she liked to be called, was reared and educated in Washington, Iowa. She was Sarah Rousseau, the daughter of Iowa pioneers, Dr. W. H. Rousseau and Electa Atwood Rousseau. Sarah married A. R. Dewey, a lawyer who served as district judge for twelve years. Their son Charles also became a lawyer. Their daughter Mabel married and moved to Colorado.

Sarah R. Dewey

Mrs. Dewey became a P.E.O. in Chapter Q, Washington, September 12, 1885, only a few months after the Chapter was organized. For her, membership was synonymous with active participation and responsibility. Throughout the rest of her life she served P.E.O. well. One must study her long service to know what an adequate person Sarah Dewey really was, "with her modest and unassuming ways, her lovely disposition, her culture and refinement, her tact and executive ability" (2, p. 67). In her gracious kindly concern for people and issues, she was quick to give credit to those who worked with her. Fortunate indeed was P.E.O. to have Mrs. Dewey as president of Grand Chapter during the difficult year of 1891-92.

Convention Keynotes:

The 1892 convention delegation rightly concerned itself first with legislation to properly establish the Grand Chapter as the highest authority in P.E.O., with power to establish and define the jurisdiction of state and local chapters.

State chapters, or state grand chapters as they were usually called, had been considered briefly at several early conventions. There was also a rule in force stating that there must be eight chapters in a state before a state grand chapter could be formed. When delegates from Nebraska asked the convention delegation of 1889 to grant Nebraska chapters permission to form the first state chapter in P.E.O., the Nebraska Grand Chapter, permission was granted. Nebraska had only seven chapters but two more were added before the organization meeting, April 2, 1890.

No one mentioned or seemed to recognize the need for setting up legislation under which the Nebraska Grand Chapter could function. Minutes of convention mention Nebraska's being 'set aside' and this rather aptly describes the situation that followed, unintentional though it was.

When the Nebraska Grand Chapter was organized by Mrs. Stockman, April 2, 1890, Nebraska P.E.O.'s attempted to function as a state chapter with little authority except to re-letter the chapters within the state. There was no legislation to define the functions or jurisdiction of this first state chapter, none to define the relationship between state grand chapters and the Grand Chapter, national in scope but not so named.

There was no Iowa Grand Chapter until October, 1893, yet when the charter for the Nebraska Grand Chapter was issued it was written as being granted by The Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa. The last unfortunate phrase only added to the confusion. Surely some comedy of errors must have been abroad in P.E.O. during those few uncertain years.

An attempt was made to clarify the situation at the 1890 convention of the Grand Chapter. Instead of attempting to rename the Grand Chapter there was talk of organizing another one, a National Grand Chapter that would have authority over all of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. In fact a motion prevailed to that effect and officers were elected. However, the Grand Chapter still existed, was still national in scope, still had authority over all P.E.O., and still elected officers of its own. The move for a different national chapter had been premature and the elected officers did not function. (See resume of 1890 convention.)

The convention of 1891 passed two resolutions that helped to clarify minor points, but the real issues were not met and solved.

However, there were those in power who recognized that changes must be made. Mrs. Dewey and her excellent corps of officers, elected at the convention of 1891, faced the problems squarely. Through letters, talks and pieces in The P.E.O. Record, an effort was made to correctly inform the membership of the issues.

Many P.E.O.'s expressed their views through the pages of The Record. A few, including Effie Hoffman Rogers, contended that a National Grand Chapter should be organized; questioned the legality of Grand Chapter; and expressed the belief that the Grand Chapter was in reality an Iowa State Chapter. That was not a correct interpretation since The Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood had been organized as the highest governing body in P.E.O. and laws defined it as such. When articles in The P.E.O. Record became involved with personalities, Mrs. Dewey closed the pages of The Record to further discussion of the subject.

In the meantime, Nebraska Grand Chapter consulted the executive board of Grand Chapter then, through the pages of The P.E.O. Record, September, 1892, p. 143, issued the following call to all P.E.O. chapters:

> To Chapter ________: You are hereby requested to send a delegate to a convention to be held Monday evening, October 10th, 1892, at Des Moines, Iowa, for the purpose of considering the question of a National Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Each chapter is entitled to one vote, either in person or by proxy.
>
> Lulu B. Patrick, President
> Alice C. Briggs, First Vice President
> Winifred F. Smith, Second Vice President
> Jenny H. Bryant, Corresponding Secretary
> Anna T. Wyckoff, Recording Secretary
> Elizabeth D. Jones, Treasurer
> Clara A. Crawford, Chaplain
>
> Executive Board Nebraska Grand Chapter of P.E.O. (10, Sept., 1892, p. 143).

A form of proxy blank accompanied the call. The date set for the called meeting was two days before the convention of Grand Chapter, scheduled to meet in Des Moines, October 12, 13, 14, 1892. The date chosen allowed delegates to attend both the called meeting and the convention of Grand Chapter.

Called Meeting, October 10, 1892

Minutes of the Nebraska called meeting are incorporated into the minutes of the Grand Chapter convention that convened in Des Moines two days later. They are also printed at length in the White History. A short resume follows.

In response to the call, delegates from 22 chapters met in Parlor C at the Savery Hotel in Des Moines the evening of October 10, 1892.

Mrs. Patrick, president of Nebraska Grand Chapter, was ill so the meeting was called to order by vice president, Mrs. Alice C. Briggs. Miss Etta Budd of Ames, Iowa, was elected chairman and Mrs. F. B. Bryant of Omaha, Nebraska, secretary.

Mrs. Briggs briefly stated the object of the called meeting: to form a supreme power for the Sisterhood and to discuss a National Grand Chapter.

The Credentials Committee reported 22 chapters represented by 20 delegates: 8 chapters from Nebraska, 12 from Iowa, and 2 from Indiana.

The total number of chapters in existence then was 70 chapters from eight states and the District of Columbia.

Miss Morrison of Chapter AR, Atlantic, Iowa, raised the question, was there sufficient representation present to legalize any action? The consensus seemed to be that there was not.

Then Mrs. Alice Spilman of Chapter N, Ottumwa, in well chosen words, explained to the convention the views entertained and the stand taken by the P.E.O. Sisterhood through officers and other representatives of Grand Chapter. Virginia Corbett of Chapter A, York, Nebraska, thanked Mrs. Spilman for her explanations, saying it explained what had not been understood previously. A lengthy discussion followed, questions were asked and explanations given.

At the beginning of the meeting there had been uncertainty and some feeling of antagonism but, as explanations were made, delegates realized there had been errors in judgment but no intentional injustice.

The group was drawn closer together and displayed a sincere desire to help formulate plans for the future that would be lasting. Two important motions made by Mrs. Spilman brought the called meeting to a close:

> 1. Motion carried that delegates here assembled representing chapters outside of Nebraska do pledge ourselves to use our influence so that the courtesy of a seat in The Grand Chapter of P.E.O., to convene in Des Moines, be granted to these representatives from Nebraska; and that a state charter, legally adopted by The Grand Chapter of P.E.O., be given Nebraska in exchange for the one she now holds, provided Nebraska recognizes The Grand Chapter of P.E.O. as the supreme power of the order.
>
> 2. Motion carried that we, the delegates here assembled, recognize The Grand Chapter of P.E.O., as the supreme power of the order and consent to enter into the convention to meet here in Des Moines October 12, 13, 14, to devise ways and means for the good of the order.

Convention of the Grand Chapter

After the formal opening of convention, October 12, 1892, and true to the promise made it was moved by Miss Pendleton and seconded by Miss Morrison that the courtesy of a seat in convention be extended to the members present from Nebraska.

Mrs. Spilman explained to the delegation the two motions adopted at the called meeting two days earlier. They were received with profound interest. Here, at last, was the solution to the difficulties that had disturbed P.E.O. for many months. The Grand Chapter voted to grant Nebraska delegates seats in convention. A motion also prevailed to accept the credentials of Nebraska delegates although the credentials had been issued for the called meeting.

From that moment, delegates from all states worked hand in hand. The spirit of P.E.O. was much in evidence through the long business meetings when needed legislation and policies were considered and enacted. The wisdom and kindness, and at last the understanding of delegates brought a deep sense of satisfaction to participants, and made the demanding work of convention a labor of love.

Legislation:

1. Adequate legislation to establish authority and define functions was prepared in proper parliamentary form and was ready for consideration. After due discussion and some amendment, the resolutions presented by Chapter N, Ottumwa, through Mrs. Spilman, were adopted.

The resolutions clearly identified the Grand Chapter as the highest governing body in P.E.O., with power to define the jurisdiction and functions of state and local chapters.

2. Then, in order that there be no confusion in nomenclature, Supreme was added to the name of the highest body, making it The Supreme Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. That name was carried until 1909 when it became The Supreme Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

3. Early in convention the following committee had been appointed to revise charters for State Grand Chapter: Mrs. Mame White, Chapter N, Ottumwa, Iowa; Mrs. Alice Briggs, Chapter D, Superior, Nebraska; Mrs. W. R. Durland, 2nd vice president and a member of the recently disbanded Chapter C, Norfolk, Nebraska; and Mrs. Kate Wilson, Chapter Y, Knoxville, Iowa. When the committee reported on Thursday, the new charter they recommended was adopted.

4. Mrs. Durland recommended the adoption of uniform charters for local chapters. A form was adopted as presented by Mrs. F. B. Bryant, Nebraska; Mrs. R. D. Cramer, Missouri; and Mrs. Alice Babb, Iowa.

5. The committee to choose a uniform literary program presented the outline on History of Womankind as studied in Chapter

AC, Des Moines, the preceding year. The outline included women from many countries, women of the Bible, and women in fiction. Its use was to be optional.

6. Mrs. Dewey, in her report to convention, made numerous suggestions for amendments to the constitution and bylaws, many of which were enacted into laws. Four important ones governed dimits:

  a. That in the case of a disbanded chapter, members may obtain dimits from Grand Chapter.
  b. That dimits be declared null and void if not used within a year of time issued.
  c. That a chapter receiving a dimit from any P.E.O. is obliged to receive the member into the chapter.
  d. That a chapter issuing a dimit card notify the chapter to which the dimit is issued.

7. Mrs. W. A. McHenry, Chapter AC, Des Moines, and Mrs. Daisy Green, Chapter L, Des Moines, reported on incorporation of the society. It was voted to incorporate and the committee was retained to prepare articles of incorporation, to be presented to the convention of 1893 for approval.

8. As work progressed it became apparent that all P.E.O. laws must be assembled and printed. A complete revision was indicated. Mrs. Dewey appointed the following committee to draft a constitution and bylaws for Supreme Grand Chapter: Mrs. Alice Babb, Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa; Mrs. Alice C. Briggs, Chapter D, Superior, Nebraska; Mrs. Ida Matthews, Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana.

Finance:

1. In order to finance state grand chapters it was voted to retain two-thirds of the dues of Supreme Grand Chapter in states where state grand chapters existed.

2. The report of the treasurer showed a balance of $969.45. Increased dues voted at the previous convention had improved the financial status of Grand Chapter.

3. The amount paid, during the past year, for deficiency on The P.E.O. Record was $153.15.

4. The salary of the editor of the P.E.O. Record was increased from $25 to $30 per month.

5. Miss Mary Osmond was re-elected editor of The P.E.O. Record.

Officers Elected:

President, Mrs. Jessie M. Thayer, Chapter Z, Chariton, Iowa
1st Vice President, Mrs. Winnie R. Durland, Chapter C, Norfolk, Nebraska
2nd Vice President, Mrs. R. D. Cramer, Chapter B, Memphis, Missouri
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Dora C. McNaul, Chapter H, Holdrege, Nebraska
Corresponding Secretary, Miss Ella Randel, Chapter N, Ottumwa, Iowa
Treasurer, Mrs. Ida Matthews, Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana

Miscellaneous:

1. Early in convention Mrs. Alice S. Spilman, in behalf of Chapter N, of Ottumwa, presented a gavel to Mrs. A. R. Dewey for use by presiding officers in conventions of Grand Chapter. The gavel was ivory with an ebony handle, with a P.E.O. star and the date set in gold on the ivory. It was used in this and the following conventions of Supreme Chapter until 1935 when it was retired and placed in the cabinet in one of the historical rooms of the Memorial Hall.

2. Many social events brightened the evenings of this convention: a reception at the Savery Hotel, a six-course dinner party at the Des Moines Club and several teas throughout the week. Thursday evening Chapters AC and L of Des Moines entertained with a stunning reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Israel. The following paragraph partially describes the party and suggests the atmosphere of quiet elegance:

> The house was abundantly decorated in P.E.O. colors, a profusion of white and yellow roses being used. Upon the piano was a magnificent star of yellow and white roses. Between the parlor and dining-room was a curtain of smilax. The mandolin orchestra, stationed in the library, furnished music for the lower floor throughout the evening. The third floor was devoted to dancing. Kromer and Thayer's orchestra furnished music for the well arranged program of dances.... In the dining room refreshments were served throughout the evening (2, p. 80).

October 11, 12, 13, 1893
Waterloo, Iowa
A New Hall

Chapters Represented:

Iowa, A, Mount Pleasant; B, Fairfield; C, Leon; 3rd E, Brooklyn; F, Bloomfield; G, Farmington; I, Centerville; J, Iowa City; K, Bonaparte; L, Des Moines; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; O, Albia; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; R, Hampton; S, Osceola; T, What Cheer; Y, Knoxville; Z, Chariton; AA, Burlington; AC, Des Moines; AF, Rock Rapids; AI, Cedar Falls; AM, Garden Grove; AO, Keokuk; AR, Atlantic; AT, Waterloo; AU, Winterset; AV, Oskaloosa; AY, Ames; BA, Vinton; BC, New Sharon; BD, Nevada; BE, Humeston.

Nebraska, A, York, had its own delegate. The two delegates from Nebraska Grand Chapter, Mrs. Patrick of Chapter H, Holdredge, and Mrs. Briggs of Chapter D, Superior, held 25 proxy votes and represented 10 Nebraska chapters: D, Superior; E, Omaha; F, Plattsmouth; G, Hastings; H, Holdrege; I, Wahoo; J, Nelson; K, Lincoln; L. Harvard; M, Omaha.

Missouri, A, Uniontown (old W); B, Cameron (old AG); C, Memphis (organized as B, Missouri, but became C by vote of 1893 convention, when Cameron was found to have been organized first).

Michigan, A, Detroit (old AW).

Illinois, A, Chicago.

California, C, Los Angeles.

Chapters Not Represented:

Iowa, X, Sigourney; AJ, Mount Pleasant; 2nd AP, Milton; 2nd AQ, Clarinda; AX, West Liberty.

Missouri, (D, Hopkins, old 4th H, disbanded 1893), E, Lancaster; F, Kansas City.

Kansas, A, Meade (old AB); B, LaCrosse (old 2nd V); C, Lyons, (old AN).

Indiana, A, Thorntown (old U); B, Knightstown (old AD).

Arkansas, A, Eureka Springs (old AZ).

California, B, Escondido.

Washington, A, Seattle.

Total number local chapters represented—52.

Total number local chapters not represented—15.

Total number active local chapters, October 1, 1893—67.
Iowa 40, Nebraska 11, Missouri 5, Kansas 3, Indiana 2, Michigan 1, Illinois 1, Arkansas 1, California 2, Washington 1.

Total number state chapters represented—1.
Nebraska, the only state chapter in existence, was represented by two delegates.

New Chapters:

All new chapters are incorporated into statistics above.

AF, Rock Rapids, Iowa, Reorganized Nov. 27, 1892. Counted with first organization.
A, Chicago, Illinois, January 17, 1893.
A, Seattle, Washington, February 22, 1893.
E, Lancaster, Missouri, May 4, 1893.
F, Kansas City, Missouri, June 3, 1893.
BA, Vinton, Iowa, 1893.
3rd E, Brooklyn, Iowa, August 11, 1893.
BC, New Sharon, Iowa, August 29, 1893.
BD, Nevada, Iowa, September 22, 1893.
BE, Humeston, Iowa, September 26, 1893.
K, Lincoln, Nebraska, March 28, 1893.
L, Harvard, Nebraska, April 28, 1893.
M, Omaha, Nebraska, June 17, 1893.

Disbanded Chapters, 1893:

4th H, Hopkins, Missouri, 1893.
B, Fairfield, Nebraska, March, 1893.
AH, Jerseyville, Illinois, reported at Convention, 1893.
AE, Lebanon, Indiana, reported at Convention, 1893.
2nd E, Washington, D.C., reported at Convention, 1893.
Chapter 2nd E struggled along for six years, far from the heart of P.E.O. activities. Numerous letters from Chapter E appeared in early issues of the P.E.O. Records. The chapter became inactive in 1892, then disbanded the following year.

Total disbanded Chapters 1869-1893: (So far as known)

1st B, Seminary, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, 1879.
1st C, Jacksonville, Illinois, 1888 or 1889.

D, Oskaloosa, Iowa, 1889 or 1890.
1st E, Muscatine, Iowa, 1876 or 1877.
2nd E, Washington, D.C., 1893.
1st G, Troy, Iowa, Probably 1879.
1st H, Omaha, Nebraska, Probably 1879.
2nd H, Burlington, Iowa, 1884.
3rd H, Council Bluffs, Iowa, by 1890.
4th H, Hopkins, Missouri, 1893.
1st K, Jacksonville, Illinois, Probably 1884.
2nd K, Norfolk, Nebraska, May 1892.
1st L, Bethany, (B) Missouri, 1888.
1st T, Grinnell, Iowa, 1888.
1st V, Fairfield (B), Nebraska, March 1893.
AE, Lebanon, Indiana, 1893.
AH, Jerseyville, Illinois, 1893.
AK, Oceanside, California, probably 1893.
--, Glenwood, Missouri, probably late 1892.

Presiding Officer: Mrs. Jessie Mallory Thayer, President.

Mrs. Thayer, although born in Illinois, was brought to Iowa by her parents while still an infant. She was educated and married in Iowa and was living in Chariton at the time of her initiation into Chapter Z, later N.

Jessie Mallory Thayer was a beautiful, cultured woman, a devoted P.E.O., something of a perfectionist, and a thoroughly competent administrator and presiding officer. She was a perfect choice for this demanding year climaxed by the "great constitutional convention," as it became known. As president, she worked closely with the committee—Alice Babb, Alice Briggs and Ida Matthews—in the complete revision of the constitution, its adoption, and its subsequent printing and distribution to chapters. Previously, (1890) she had helped to write the Burial Ritual for P.E.O. She was the first president to serve under the new name, Supreme Grand Chapter.

Jessie M. Thayer O'Neil

In 1914 she was married to W. M. O'Neil and moved to Orlando, Florida, where she became identified with organizational work of various kinds.

Convention Keynotes:

Legislation of major importance was set in motion by the 1892 convention delegation. Many constitutional changes were effected that year, but much more needed to be done, and all laws needed reorganization.

P.E.O. had matured along with its members during the ten years of Grand Chapter. It had become a rapidly growing national organization of some distinction. Laws must keep pace, so a complete revision was ordered by the 1892 convention and a competent committee named: Mrs. Alice Bird Babb of Chapter A, a founder who penned P.E.O.'s first meager constitution; Mrs. Alice C. Briggs of Chapter D, Superior, Nebraska, who was the first president of Nebraska Grand Chapter; and Mrs. Ida Matthews of Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana, then treasurer of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of this revision was the division of the constitution and bylaws into three parts: Supreme, state, and local chapters, and the logical reorganization of all laws under those headings. This pattern is still in use (1968).

The 1893 convention time was almost wholly occupied with discussion and voting upon the revision of constitution and bylaws. They were read by Mrs. Babb section by section, then explained, discussed, and voted upon. Information of a ritualistic nature was removed and the new constitution was ordered printed for the first time. Printing was done at the office of the Osceola Gazette. Mrs. Babb and Miss Osmond, owner of the Gazette and editor of The P.E.O. Record, read the proof. The new constitution was distributed to chapters early in 1894.

Legislation:

1. P.E.O. adopted the articles of incorporation presented by the committee, Mrs. Luella B. McHenry and Mrs. Daisy A. Green of Des Moines. They had made their preliminary report to the convention of 1892, and were instructed to have articles of incorporation prepared for adoption by the 1893 convention. W. H. McHenry, Jr., prepared the articles for adoption. Simply and adequately stated, the Articles of Incorporation have served P.E.O. well. Few changes have been made during the 75 years they have been in effect.

2. The Supreme Grand Chapter voted to hold conventions biennially, a practice still in force (1968).

3. The office of organizer was established.

4. The marguerite was chosen as the Society flower.

5. The subject of proxy votes was discussed at length. Seventy proxy votes were brought to convention by the delegates; 25 by the two delegates from Nebraska Grand Chapter. The policy adopted: No member of the convention can cast more than one proxy vote.

6. An amendment concerning dimits required a two thirds vote of resident members to accept a dimit.

7. The following petition to form Iowa Grand Chapter was presented to and approved by the 1893 convention of the Supreme Grand Chapter:

To the President of the Supreme Grand Chapter of P.E.O.:

> The petition of the undersigned respectfully represents that they are members in good standing from Chapters N, AO, AC, L, AY, AM, AE, S, M, AF, P, K, I, E, T, G, AU, A, F, AT, AP, and B. (Signed by the Presidents.) According to the Constitution of the Supreme Grand Chapter the P.E.O.'s in the State of Iowa are called upon to form a State Grand Chapter. They are qualified to form and open a State Grand Chapter, and to properly discharge the duties thereof. Having the good of the Order at heart, and desirous to extend the blessings of P.E.O., they pray for a charter empowering them to form a State Grand Chapter subordinate to and to be conducted in accordance with the constiution and edicts of the Supreme Grand Chapter of P.E.O.
>
> Alice Spilman, Chapter N
> Lulu (Luella) McHenry, Chapter AC
> Mrs. C. G. Anderson, Chapter AF
> Mrs. Etta DeArnold, Chapter O
> Miss Emily McCormick, Chapter Z
> Mrs. Alice Babb, Chapter A
> Mrs. Ollie Gates Pulliam, Chapter M

8. Iowa Grand Chapter was organized at the close of convention with Mrs. Alice S. Spilman as the first president.

9. Re-lettering of Iowa chapters was delegated to Iowa Grand Chapter. Chapters in other states, except Nebraska whose chapters were re-lettered in 1890 after Nebraska Grand Chapter was organized, were re-lettered by vote of the 1893 convention.

10. Shattuck's Manual was considered for adoption as the parliamentary authority instead of Robert's Rules of Order. Minutes do not record the adoption but the White History does (2, p. 90).

Finance:

1. The bond for the treasurer was set at twice the value of property under her control.

2. A biennial per capita tax of 50 cents was set as the amount of dues state chapters should pay to Supreme Grand Chapter.

3. The cost of maintaining the P.E.O. headquarters at the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago was reported as $234.03.

4. Amount paid to The P.E.O. Record by Supreme Grand Chapter was $113.15. No P.E.O. Record was printed in September. Miss Mary Osmond resigned as editor and Mrs. Siddie Richards of Waterloo was elected as the new editor. Miss Osmond was given a rising vote of thanks for her faithful work on The Record.

Officers Elected:

President, Mrs. Alice C. Briggs, Chapter D, Superior, Nebraska

1st Vice President, Miss Ida L. Palmer, Chapter A, Detroit, Michigan
2nd Vice President, Miss Martha Winans, Chapter C, Los Angeles, California
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Laura P. Couch, Chapter Z, Waterloo, Iowa
Corresponding Secretary, Miss Daisy Turner, Chapter A, Unionville, Missouri
Treasurer, Miss Minnie Osgood, Chapter A, Chicago, Illinois
Organizer, Mrs. Winnie R. Durland, disbanded Chapter C, Norfolk, Nebraska

It should be noted here that the seven officers are from six different states, Nebraska being the only state with two officers. This was indeed a departure from custom when, for many years, it was necessary for Iowa to carry the burden.

Mrs. Babb and Mrs. Thayer both declined the presidency.

Miscellaneous:

1. A unique undertaking of this year was the P.E.O. headquarters maintained in the women's building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition held in Chicago. Mrs. Thayer and her executive board made arrangements for the room and Miss Minnie Osgood of Chapter A, Chicago, was placed in charge of it. The great yellow and white registration book bears the names of hundreds of P.E.O.'s who found their way to that pleasant room. This was an efficient means of bringing P.E.O. to the attention of many people who knew nothing about the society.

2. It was planned that delegates to the 1893 convention in Waterloo would be registered in the World's Fair registration book, but the book was still in use in Chicago. A section of the heavy, gold-edged pages was used for registration of delegates, then the pages were machine sewed to the cloth strips in the binding. Section by section the book grew with the addition of pages from future conventions and expositions. It was used last at the 22nd convention of Supreme Chapter held in Los Angeles in October, 1915. It is now (1968) in the P.E.O. historical collection.

3. Hostesses at the 1893 convention started the custom of having local organizations furnish the dinners for convention delegates.

4. Although Chapter AY, Ames, Iowa, extended an invitation to entertain the convention of 1895, no action was taken. No doubt Mrs. Briggs of Nebraska, president-elect, hoped that the convention might be held in Nebraska, which it was, and so for the first time, a convention was held outside of Iowa.

The Close of an Era

The magnificent concept of P.E.O. will always be limited by the human limitations of P.E.O.'s themselves. But to remain static is not the nature of P.E.O. Like persons, it is always in a state of becoming.

It is easy to think of the Grand Chapter decade as the adolescent years of P.E.O. because those were experimental years for the new national organization, and because they encompassed the first real growth of P.E.O. From six chapters in 1883, P.E.O. had grown, in 1893, to 67 chapters in 10 states, and had two state chapters, Nebraska and Iowa.

The extensive revision, adoption, and subsequent printing of the constitution and bylaws in 1893, together with the study and planning involved in such a revision, brought new status to P.E.O. There was a unity of purpose at local, state and national levels: a sense of moving ahead into time with the confidence that maturity brings.

Grand Chapter had been high adventure, really, that direction of a human force into creative channels. But problems had been many for the fine competent women who had the courage and tenacity to work through each problem then take the next step forward. From the moving but of times uncertain force that motivated the Grand Chapter decade, P.E.O. emerged rather magnificently into the new era—still inspired, still creative, still purposeful.

CONSTITUTION OF GRAND CHAPTER

The constitution and bylaws are not recorded with the minutes of Grand Chapter. Amendments are noted from year to year, although not always recorded in their actual form. The only known copy of the constitution is the following one that was in use in 1890. Since no complete revision was made until 1893 these laws are substantially the ones under which Grand Chapter functioned. They are reproduced from The Story of P.E.O., 1869-1923, pages 29 to 31.

Preamble

We, the representatives chosen by the several chapters of the P.E.O. Society, recognizing the importance of a superior power by which all subordinate chapters shall be controlled and receive equal judgment, do organize a Grand Chapter, and adopt the following constitution and bylaws:

ARTICLE I. This body shall be known as the Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

ARTICLE II. In the Grand Chapter shall be vested the legislative and judicial power, except such as shall be hereinafter mentioned.

ARTICLE III. SEC. 1. This Grand Chapter shall be composed of representatives from the subordinate chapters.

SEC. 2. Subordinate chapters shall be represented in Grand Chapter by not more than two delegates, who shall cast the entire vote for the chapter if instructed so to do. Subordinate chapters are entitled to one vote at large, and one for every fifteen resident members having paid their Grand Chapter dues.

ARTICLE IV. SEC. 1. The officers of this Grand Chapter shall be: President, two vice-presidents, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer.

SEC. 2. These officers shall be elected by ballot and installed by the Grand Chapter during the last session of each annual meeting.

SEC. 3. The president shall preside at all meetings; call special sessions; convene the executive board; appoint all committees; organize new chapters by and with the consent of the executive board, and have a special regard for the interest of the society.

SEC. 4. When the president is unable to perform her duties, said obligation shall devolve upon the first vice-president, and it shall be the constant duty of the vice-presidents to ascertain favorable locations for new chapters.

SEC. 5. The recording secretary shall keep a record of all transactions of the Grand Chapter, shall secure, destroy or retain all documents not in use by a chapter and shall copy the constitution and bylaws whenever required.

SEC. 6. The corresponding secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the Grand Chapter.

SEC. 7. The treasurer shall take charge of all funds belonging to the Grand Chapter and disburse them on order of the Grand Chapter, signed by the president and countersigned by the recording secretary.

ARTICLE V. The officers of the Grand Chapter shall constitute an executive board whose duty it shall be to consult and advise during the interval between the annual meetings and perform all business necessary to the interest of the subordinate chapters.

ARTICLE VI. The meetings of the Grand Chapter shall be held annually and at such time and place as shall be selected by the chapter.

ARTICLE VII. The constitution of the subordinate chapters shall be uniform, and any amendment to said constitution must be presented by the subordinate chapters and passed by a two-thirds vote of the chapter and be approved by the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE VIII. It shall require a majority of all chapters entitled to representation in the Grand Chapter to be represented in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE IX. This constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds vote of members of the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE X. That from this date, October 17, 1890, no chapter shall be formed in a city where one already exists without the consent of the existing chapter, and that chapters already existing be free and independent of each other, that they may be allowed full and free control of their own business, that they be allowed to invite and initiate whomsoever they deem worthy without consulting the other chapter. In case both chapters invite the same lady to join, she shall have the privilege of joining the one she prefers.

Articles of Incorporation

In April, 1893, the committee on incorporation of The P.E.O. Sisterhood reported as follows in The P.E.O. Record:

> **Report of Committee on Incorporation**
>
> The Committee on Articles of Incorporation are at last able to report to the P.E.O. Sisterhood, we hope to the satisfaction of all. The articles may easily be amended at the next convention of the Supreme Grand Chapter.
>
> Article 1 applies to the signers of the articles, not to the whole membership of the Sisterhood.
>
> Article 3 will need some explanation. In forming a corporation some place of business must be named. It must have definite location. As the articles of incorporation were to be filed at Des Moines, we named that place, but this may be changed at any time by vote of the delegates at any convention.
>
> Article 4 covers much ground, but we were preparing for the future as well as the present.
>
> Just a word as to Article 7. Our Society is in many respects differently constituted from any society we found incorporated. The money and business operations of nearly all corporate bodies are in the hands of three or four trustees, these trustees being under bonds. As our Society has no such officers, we named the Executive Board. But in case this corporation should ever have property to manage or lawsuits to attend to, these trustees, located as centrally as possible, would prove advantageous to the Society.
>
> Hoping this report will meet the expectation of the members appointing us, we remain.
>
> Yours sincerely,
>
> LUELLA B. MC HENRY,
> DAISY C. GREEN,
> Committee.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF THE P.E.O. SISTERHOOD

ARTICLE 1. We, the undersigned, all being citizens of the United States of America, and the State of Iowa, under and by virtue of the provisions of Chapter 2, Title 9 of the Code of Iowa, do hereby associate and unite ourselves as a body corporate under the name and style of the Supreme Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

ARTICLE 2. The object of this corporation shall be the physical, moral, social, and intellectual improvement of women and for charitable and benevolent purposes.

ARTICLE 3. The principal place of business of this corporation shall be at Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa.

ARTICLE 4. This corporation shall have power to sue and be sued. It shall have and use a common seal. It shall have power to take, receive, purchase, and hold real estate and personal property. To make bylaws for the management of its affairs, sell and transfer real estate and personal property; to lease and re-lease, to let and sub-let real and personal property; and in the management of its funds that may accrue in the regular manner provided by the constitution of the said Sisterhood, it shall have power to loan any surplus it may have on hand and enforce collection thereof by ordinary legal process.

ARTICLE 5. All members of the Supreme Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood who are now in good standing under the laws of the said Chapter, or who shall hereafter become members of the same, shall be members of this corporation.

ARTICLE 6. The private property of the members of this corporation shall not be liable for its corporate debts.

ARTICLE 7. The Executive Board provided for by the constitution of the said Society shall be managers of the business of this corporation, and shall hold, manage, and control any and all property of this corporation as trustees of the same. Such Board for the first year shall consist of the following persons: The President of the said Society, Mrs. Jessie M. Thayer; Mrs. Winnie R. Durland, Mrs. R. D. Cramer, Miss Ella Randel, Mrs. Dora C. McNaul, and Mrs. Ida Matthews.

ARTICLE 8. These articles may be amended in any manner that shall be ordered by a vote of the said Grand Chapter at any annual convention thereof.

Luella B. McHenry
Daisy A. Green
Carrie M. Ogilvie
Mrs. H. Reynolds
Mrs. S. Kurtz
Mrs. A. E. Clark

STATE OF IOWA)
Polk County,) ss.

Be it Remembered, That on this day of January, A.D. 1893, before me, the undersigned, a notary public, within and for said county, personally came Luella B. McHenry, Daisy A. Green, Carrie M. Ogilvie, Mrs. H. Reynolds, Mrs. S. Kurtz, Mrs. A. E. Clark, personally to me known to be the identical persons who subscribed to the foregoing articles of incorporation, and severally acknowledged the execution of the same to be their voluntary act and deed for the purposes therein set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and my notarial seal, at Des Moines, in the County of Polk, and the State of Iowa, this 21st of February, 1893.

[L. S.]

W. H. McHenry, Jr.
Notary Public, Polk County, Iowa.

Re-incorporation of the Sisterhood

On February 21, 1943 the Articles of Incorporation of the Sisterhood which had been in existence fifty years, expired. Before the expiration date through the services of Mr. George Van Allen a Mount Pleasant attorney, Articles of Re-incorporation were authenticated by the signatures of the present officers, and the legal instrument was filed at Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa. This incorporates the Sisterhood for a further period of fifty years.

The Articles of Re-incorporation were signed by Blanche D. Walker, Carrie B. Simpson, Dorothy L. Weller, Bessie R. Raney, Laura Storms Knapp, Mabel Scurrah, and Rose M. Owens.

PART III

1893-1969

Inspiration Becomes Reality

Inspiration

If I were an idea
I should wish for one to find me
Whose greeting would be startled and surprised;
Whose level gaze would question even as it recognized;
Whose hands would then reach forth and loose for me
Wings I never knew were mine.

—Jean Dudley
Chapter HN, Ames, Iowa

12 P.E.O. Comes of Age

The years that immediately followed the Grand Chapter era and extended well into the twentieth century were exciting ones for P.E.O. The pattern was set for expansion and times were favorable. P.E.O. grew rapidly, extending itself into all parts of the United States and into Canada. P.E.O. even left the mainland by organizing chapters in Hawaii.

Small and medium-sized towns were important elements in the social structure at the turn of the century and P.E.O. thrived in those towns, as well as in urban areas. The gloom that had followed the Civil War gradually dissipated. The country was at peace. Propitious optimism prevailed. The gay nineties even lent a note of elegance to the scene.

In comparison with present standards of acceleration (1968) the country moved at a snail's pace, but people found time to read, to think, to plan for the future, and time to feel concern for their fellow men. Education and other cultural activities thrived in that atmosphere. Education for women had become firmly established. The Feminist Movement, despite opposition, developed rapidly. So did P.E.O.

The Founders at the Turn of the Century

Four of the seven founders were living in 1900: Alice Bird Babb, Mary Allen Stafford, Suela Pearson Penfield, and Franc Roads Elliott. Alice Bird Babb was the only one of four who took an active part in Grand Chapter and Supreme Grand Chapter until after 1900. Alice continued to live in Mount Pleasant until 1906. She remained actively interested in Chapter A, was present at the organization of Grand Chapter, and was a participant in its activities the rest of her life.

When the officers of Iowa Grand Chapter planned the convention that met in Oskaloosa May 17, 1900, they invited the founders to be present, if possible, or to send messages that might be read in convention. Only one attended, but her being there made it one of the outstanding events of P.E.O. history. It was the first P.E.O. convention that Mrs. Stafford had ever attended. Mary Osmond, editor, The P.E.O. Record, described it thus:

> The greatest event of the day was the coming of one of the original seven who had never attended a convention of P.E.O. before—Mrs. Mary Allen Stafford. She was at once called to the platform and it was with immense satisfaction and applause that P.E.O.'s saw her. She is a fine looking woman with a kindly glance, a pleasing voice and warm handclasp. She bore her part well throughout the meetings and read a paper that we hope to print in the Record soon (10, June 1900, p. 141).

Mary had lived at numerous places in Iowa as her husband assumed different pastorates in that state. She kept her P.E.O. membership in Chapter A until 1905 when she transferred it to the Bloomfield chapter, then Chapter B, Iowa. Consecutively she was a member of three other chapters in Iowa: X, Oskaloosa; AH, West Liberty; and FC, Muscatine.

The other three founders sent messages. Following is a brief quote from Alice Bird Babb's message:

> May nothing happen to check or prevent our marvelous growth. May we not be too wise in our own conceit, but modestly, enthusiastically, and wisely, go on to help a world which does need so much.... God bless us all, and envelop us with love toward each P.E.O. and toward each one with whom we associate (10, June, 1900, p. 147).

Suela Pearson Penfield sent her message from Cleveland, Ohio, where she lived most of her married life. No P.E.O. chapters existed in Cleveland until after Suela's death, so her membership remained in Chapter A, Mount Pleasant.

But Suela loved P.E.O. and often sent messages to convention groups as she did this one in 1900:

> Although many years have passed since my hand last clasped a sister P.E.O.'s in good fellowship, my heart has retained the true metal, which rings in progress, advancement, loyalty to the past, the present, and a memory of the days when our little band first threw its scintillating rays to the world...[I] now look back with profound admiration to you who have followed in our plans laid down in that happy yesterday, so long ago, and trust that each succeeding year may find you recording a living monument, to be handed down to our daughters throughout all time.

Franc Roads Elliott probably penned her convention message from Salt Lake City, Utah, since she was art supervisor there at that time. Chapter A, Utah, had been organized at Salt Lake City in January, 1900. Although Franc was most helpful in working out plans for the organization, she did not dimit to the new chapter. Her membership remained in Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Franc wrote as follows, with customary emphasis on women's organizations in the social structure of the country:

> How little we thought in that far away time—those careless happy days at the old Iowa Wesleyan—that we were laying the foundation for this beautiful organization. The impulse that came then, to band ourselves together, so that there might be a relation through all time, we can now see, through the distant perspective, was the same impulse that has since budded and blossomed in the myriads of women's clubs and organizations that have sprung up all over the country. An impulse born of the opportunities which came with college life for women, and the sweet associations of the same life. I credit that early girlhood association as one of the most valued experiences of my life. The interest and love for others that grew in that early club—we didn't call it club though—has been a potent and valued factor in directing my life along channels that have been helpful and delightful. The all togetherness of purpose in a beautiful thought or work, is always uplifting.
>
> I am rejoiced as I take up the Record and glance over its pages, to see that beautiful thoughts and works are characteristic of the sisterhood always—and that in this uplifting process they are carrying out the unexpected longings of the seven who, with so little experience, builded better than they knew in the sweet old girl days—now so long ago (10, June 1900, p. 147).

Projects

Besides numerical growth, P.E.O. soon extended its patterns to include unified projects of various kinds. The P.E.O. Record had been established by the 1888 convention of Grand Chapter. The first issue was printed and distributed in January, 1889. The magazine proved its worth from the beginning for it served as a means of communication for all chapters. But P.E.O. continued to search for other projects.

In the early years most P.E.O. chapters adopted local projects of educational or philanthropic nature. Periodically there were discussions at conventions of Grand Chapter as P.E.O.'s searched for a worthy project in which all chapters might participate.

With the establishment of the P.E.O. Educational Fund, October, 1907, P.E.O. found its beautiful dream: education for young women. Eventually two more educational projects were added. The gift of Cottey College was accepted in October, 1927, and the first two International Scholarships were granted in October, 1949, with $3,000 from the Victory Fund project. Stories of these projects are recorded in later chapters of this book.

Another project was completed in 1927, the P.E.O. Memorial Library, built by P.E.O. on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan University at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, as a memorial to the seven founders of P.E.O. That story also follows in a later chapter.

History of Chapter AJ, the College Chapter (Relettered Chapter S, Iowa)

Chapter AJ occupies a unique spot in the history of P.E.O. and is recalled fondly by those who know its story.

Iowa Wesleyan University was the principal source of membership for Chapter A during the early 1870's, but, with the graduation of college members each year, Chapter A developed more and more into a town chapter. It became increasingly difficult for the college girls to fit into the regular schedule and activities of Chapter A, and still abide by college rules. So the college girls asked for a chapter of their own. The request was approved by Grand Chapter and on February 4, 1889, Chapter AJ was organized with seventeen charter members. Winona Evans was one of the charter members. It was she who became Winona Evans Reeves, past president, Iowa State Chapter; past president of Supreme Chapter; and editor of The P.E.O. Record.

In June, Chapter AJ's first letter appeared in The P.E.O. Record:

> Although we regretted the separation from our mother Chapter A, who for so long has taken a kindly interest in the 'college girls' yet we now feel we will be much better for the separation. ... We now feel that responsibility for the chapter work and will become more independent, and in a smaller chapter can devote ourselves with more profit to what will be our especial interests in college work (10, June 1889, p. 98).

However, the college girls of Chapter AJ carried many of their problems to the campus with them. Most urgent was that of pledging new girls. The I.C. Sorosis, then known by its Greek letters, Pi Beta Phi, and the two fraternities on the campus, Beta Theta Pi and Phi Delta Theta, could pledge prospective members as soon as they arrived on the campus.

P.E.O. required presentation of a name at one regular meeting and voting at the next before a girl could be asked to join. Permission to initiate a girl had to be obtained from the chapter in her hometown if one existed there. With such restrictions campus P.E.O.'s were not even in competition with other groups.

At the meeting of Grand Chapter in Mount Pleasant in October, 1889, Chapter AJ asked for a pledge ceremony and the right to use it. These requests were granted and for a time chapter affairs ran smoothly. Chapters in other college towns also were granted permission to use the ceremony.

After Iowa Grand Chapter was organized, October 13, 1893, Iowa chapters were relettered according to state lettering, as Nebraska chapters and subordinate chapters already were. Chapter AJ became Chapter S, Iowa.

Chapter S was a strong campus chapter. Members consistently held chairmanships of important committees on the campus, or were officers in other campus organizations. They were bright, talented young women and they adored P.E.O.

It is not surprising that the girls dreamed of doing something of importance for P.E.O. Neither is it surprising that they chose the plan they did: a memorial to the founders of P.E.O. They proposed a building on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan, to be known as the P.E.O. Memorial Hall and the Iowa Wesleyan Conservatory of Music. P.E.O. was born in the music room on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan University. During the 1880's and 1890's and until 1918 Professor Rommel conducted his highly successful conservatory of music on the campus. One needs to know the status of that conservatory of music in order to appreciate the memorial plan suggested by members of Chapter S.

Alexander Rommel was a professor of music at Belden's Female Seminary in Mount Pleasant from 1870 to 1877. There he became known as a teacher of unusual ability. He joined the faculty of Iowa Wesleyan in 1877 and the music department entered a new and exciting phase of its development. In his years at Iowa Wesleyan he established, developed, and made famous the Iowa Conservatory of Music. Professor Rommel was a perfectionist. He was born and trained in Germany but he also possessed the spirit of adventure that carried him to rare success in the heart of a new continent.

The Iowa Conservatory of Music became an affiliate of Iowa Wesleyan University with Professor Rommel having complete direction. His was a colorful personality. In Mount Pleasant and throughout the Midwest the name of Rommel became synonymous with musical culture. Stella Winans Carver, a P.E.O., was the first graduate of the Iowa Conservatory of Music, 1881, and was granted a Bachelor of Music degree from Iowa Wesleyan University. It was she who started P.E.O. in California. Iowa Wesleyan conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Music upon Alexander Rommel in 1883. Dr. Rommel was the great-grandfather of Margaret Rommel, past president of the District of Columbia Chapter, one of the first trustees of the P.E.O. Foundation, and herself, an honor graduate of Iowa Wesleyan.

So it was that the conservatory functioned during the years that Chapter S was active on the campus. So it was that the members of Chapter S became inspired, and perfected the following plans that appeared in The P.E.O. Record, February, 1896:

> **A P.E.O. Plan**
>
> Chapter S has an inspiration! We have talked much of some united object for all our sisterhood—some lasting memorial to our charter members. Besides doing local philanthropic work, we all agree in desiring to unite in some noble work which will stand as a lasting monument to our sisterhood.

> The idea of P.E.O. originated here in Mt. Pleasant, in the music room of the Iowa Wesleyan University. What could be more fitting than that we should erect upon the campus of I.W.U. a graceful, beautiful home for the Conservatory of Music.
>
> Mme. de Stael called architecture 'frozen music'; we would have this building music without and within. We would have it placed upon the most desirable spot on these lovely grounds. We would have a committee from the P.E.O.'s select the most attractive model of the architects. We would have a concert room, rooms for practice and all things necessary to a conservatory; then we would have a suite of rooms for P.E.O.'s. In memorial rooms have large portraits of the first seven P.E.O.'s and any other precious archives which cannot be carried about. Then have a large reception room; and these rooms, under the care of Chapters A and S, to be headquarters for all P.E.O.'s.
>
> Now how can this be done? Appropriate what funds are now at hand in G.C. [Grand Chapter] treasury and if other state chapters agree, and we cannot see why they should not, take that in the Supreme G.C. treasury; then one dollar from each individual P.E.O. and we could erect such a monument as would honor our society. In this way we would have at our disposal about five thousand dollars ($5,000).
>
> We have talked this over with the College authorities and it meets with their hearty approval and co-operation. They are willing to add five thousand ($5,000) to our fund of five thousand ($5,000), for the erection of a building known as the P.E.O. Memorial Hall and the Iowa Wesleyan Conservatory of Music.
>
> The advantage of this plan over any before proposed by the Sisterhood is that the Conservatory here is self-supporting, and after the payment of this first tax [assessment] there would be no annual tax required.
>
> Let us first honor our charter members, then we may turn our attention into other channels if we choose.
>
> Let us hear from other chapters.
>
> May E. Arnold (Frantz)
> Committee
> Mary E. Randall (Smith)
> Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
> Feb. 10, 1896

Members of Chapter S answered correspondence resulting from the article in The P.E.O. Record. Letters were sent to all chapters in May. They wrote a long letter to Chapter A on May 2, 1896, in which they urged discussion of the plan whenever possible and letters to friends and to other chapters. They also pointed to discussion of the plan at the convention of the Iowa Grand Chapter in June. They called attention to the enthusiasm of Mrs. Babb and Mrs. Stafford for the plan and urged, "Let us show that we appreciate and honor them while we have them with us." They must have had many meetings with Dr. C. L. Stafford, then president of Iowa Wesleyan, and with other members of the faculty and the board of trustees. Dr. Stafford, husband of Mary Allen Stafford, favored the plan and offered his full support.

When the biennial convention of Supreme Grand Chapter met October 13-17, 1897, Mrs. Jessie M. Thayer, past president, 1892-1893, presented the following motion:

> That the P.E.O. Sisterhood honor itself and the seven founders of the order by the erection of a memorial building on the Wesleyan College grounds in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, said building to be presented to the College and used as a conservatory of music and library of P.E.O. property of historic value (13b, 1897, p. 8).

Mrs. Campbell moved that the motion be tabled for the present to give time for full consideration of the matter. Later in convention the motion was taken from the table for discussion and vote. After discussion the motion was tabled until the next convention of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Before the next biennial convention, October 18-20, 1899, Dr. Stafford had resigned as president of Iowa Wesleyan University for reasons of health. When the motion concerning the memorial plan was brought before the 1899 convention, Mrs. Alice S. Spilman, who had been president two years before, when the motion was presented, spoke as follows:

> Since the motion in regard to the memorial was presented to this body, action has been taken by the University [acceptance of Dr. Stafford's resignation] entirely changing the conditions that then existed, rendering it unwise to consider this matter at present; I therefore move that the matter be dropped. Motion carried (13b, 1899, p. 9).

And so ended the beautiful dream of Chapter S. It was twenty-two years before a comparable plan was presented and four more years, 1925, before it received a favorable vote. Mary Allen Stafford, the only living founder then, participated in the ground-breaking ceremony for the P.E.O. Memorial Library and in the laying of the cornerstone, but by the time the building was built and dedicated all of the founders were gone.

Although disappointed that their memorial plan failed to materialize, Chapter S functioned for three more years. It became increasingly difficult for the members to abide by the rulings of Iowa Wesleyan University and still function within the P.E.O. constitution and bylaws. Most faculty rulings were made to fit Greek organizations. There were many times when Chapter S, in desperation, was a law unto itself and a very real problem for the sisterhood.

Of course there was talk that Chapter S might become a Greek sorority but it was 1902 before the matter was considered seriously. The girls decided to consult Alice Bird Babb who had always understood their problem and given wise counsel. Difficult as it was for Mrs. Babb, she urged them to join a good sorority, preferably a new one.

But no hasty decisions were made. There was still deliberation after Alpha Xi Delta was considered favorably. This is indicated by two letters from Ellen Ball Wilson now on file in the P.E.O. Executive Office.

Finally the members of Chapter S disbanded and June 7, 1902, formed the Beta Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta.

The P.E.O. charter of Chapter S was formally surrendered at the 1903 convention of Iowa Grand Chapter. All members of Chapter S retained their P.E.O. membership. All were given the opportunity to join Alpha Xi Delta if they desired, and most of them, perhaps all, did. No authentic list is available.

P.E.O. Thinks of Its History

Another significant P.E.O. event reached completion in 1903 with the publication of P.E.O.'s first volume of history. It was called simply History of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The cover is white, lettered in gold, so the volume is usually referred to as the White History. Only very old P.E.O. chapters are fortunate enough to have copies of this history in their supplies. The book has been out of print for many years. In fact, it is possible that only the original 1000 copies were printed.

The volume of history was authorized by the 1899 convention of Supreme Grand Chapter. Mrs. A. R. Dewey, a past president of Grand Chapter, 1891-1892, was named as chairman of the committee to compile the history and was given permission to name the other members of the committee. Other members and the work assigned to them were Alice Bird Babb, P.E.O. from organization to Grand Chapter; Sarah Gray Cramer, Missouri history; Emma Runyan Pratt, proxy organizer for Supreme Grand Chapter, subordinate chapters; May B. Johnston, general work; Miss Ida B. Johnson, Nebraska history; and Miss Mary Osmond, general work. It is likely that some of the compilation of the Nebraska section was done by Lulu B. Patrick, who worked on the committee the first two years then was replaced by Miss Johnson.

According to the preface by Mrs. Dewey, "The main object in collecting material for a history, at this time, is to reclaim from ultimate loss much reliable information, which even in the short space of thirty-four years since the organization of the sisterhood, was somewhat involved in a cloud of darkness and uncertainty, and also for the use of some professional historian of the future to treat the subject matter in a more philosophical manner."

Many of the biographies and some of the other sections were written by P.E.O.'s who were not members of the committee, but all were edited by the committee. The book is "a compilation of biographies, autobiographies, and facts gathered with great painstaking from various but reliable P.E.O. sources," according to Mrs. Dewey. The book is indeed a valuable and exhaustive compilation of data especially concerning the Grand Chapter era, 1883-1893, and the ten years that followed.

Revisions of the Constitution and Unusual Items of Legislation

The writing of the constitution in its present form was ordered by Grand Chapter in 1892, and was adopted by Supreme Grand Chapter in 1893, the name of the highest governing body having been changed in 1892. That complete revision divided the constitution into three parts: Supreme Grand Chapter, state grand chapters, and local chapters. Although countless amendments have been made to the constitution, the basic pattern remains the same. The committee in charge of the excellent work was Mrs. Alice Bird Babb, Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, who had written P.E.O.'s first meager constitution; Mrs. Alice C. Briggs, Chapter D, Superior, Nebraska, who was the first president of Nebraska Grand Chapter; and Mrs. Ida Matthews, Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana, then treasurer of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Only four general revisions have been made to the constitution:

1. 1897. Mrs. Lucia Whitney, Rock Rapids, Iowa, served as chairman of the revision committee. Other members were Mrs. Alice Spilman, Ottumwa, Iowa, and Mrs. R. D. Cramer, Memphis, Missouri. Primarily, that revision was to perfect the work done in 1893. No great changes were made, but unnecessary words and clauses were eliminated.

2. 1903. A minor revision was adopted, presented by the following committee: Mrs. M. Lue Weber, first vice president of Supreme Grand Chapter, chairman; Mrs. Mary D. Lawrence; Mrs. Jennie Allen Burch; and Mrs. Annie D. Wilkins. Attention was given to correctness of form and logical sequence.

Printed invitations for membership as recommended by the convention in 1901 were approved and adopted in 1903.

Proxy votes were discontinued.

There was much discussion concerning the definition of Supreme Grand Chapter and convention of Supreme Grand Chapter.

P.E.O. pins came directly under supervision of Supreme Grand Chapter with pins being loaned to members.

3. 1919. A complete revision of the constitution and bylaws was made. Business procedures and the handling of supplies had caused

real concern for the officers of Supreme Chapter. The revision had been ordered by the previous convention and the following committee appointed: Miss Ida B. Johnson, Nebraska, chairman; Mrs. Floy J. Stevens, Missouri; and Mrs. Grace R. Parks, Illinois. There were many outstanding features of this revision. Only a few are given below:

Provision was made for the establishment of an executive office, a supply department, and the appointment of an executive secretary.

The word Grand was stricken from the names of state chapters, the names then to be Nebraska State Chapter, Iowa State Chapter, etc.

The corresponding secretaries of local chapters were assigned the duties of journalist or reporter for The P.E.O. Record.

District or proxy organizers for subordinate territory were authorized.

The revision made it necessary for inactive members to surrender their pins.

The convention ordered a revision of ceremonies and appointed a committee to report to the 1921 convention.

4. 1937. An extensive codification of laws was adopted. The constitution lists it as a revision.

Names

At the turn of the century the highest governing body was the Supreme Grand Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. It remained so until the word Grand was deleted from the name by the convention delegation of 1909. Since then the highest body is known as the Supreme Chapter. It was another ten years, 1919, before Grand was removed from the names of state chapters and they became, for example, Nebraska State Chapter or Iowa State Chapter. There were fifteen state chapters then and P.E.O. had been carried over the border into Canada, making P.E.O. an international organization.

The year of 1919 was the Golden Anniversary of P.E.O. The meeting of Supreme Chapter was in Denver and the principal order of business was the complete revision of the constitution and bylaws.

There was some concern when the proposed Article III, Divisions, was presented. The article as revised read: "For the purpose of systematic government this organization is divided into the national chapter, state chapters, and subordinate chapters." By that time there were three chapters in Canada. The word national was not inclusive enough. The logical suggestion of the international chapter seemed too great a change at that early stage of internationalism. So the proposed article was amended by changing the word national back to Supreme. The article was adopted as amended and P.E.O. was back on familiar ground.

Four years later, 1923, a recommendation to change Supreme to National was presented to the convention delegation. An amendment to substitute International for National lost. The recommendation also lost. During the next fifteen years numerous attempts were made to change Supreme to International.

Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves was a firm believer that P.E.O. should carry the word International in the name of its highest governing body. At the 1947 convention of Supreme Chapter held in Los Angeles Mrs. Reeves gave a brief history of the names that designated the divisions of P.E.O. and moved the following recommendation which was adopted as read:

> That the executive board of Supreme Chapter be instructed to prepare and to report to the next convention of Supreme Chapter, proper amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, to change 'Supreme' to 'International' wherever the word occurs (13c, 1947, p. 42).

The next biennial convention met in Chicago in 1949. It marked the end of Mrs. Reeves' thirty-one years as editor of The P.E.O. Record. As ordered by the previous convention the following amendment was presented: To amend Article IV, paragraph 1, of the Introduction to the Constitution by striking out the words 'the Supreme Chapter' and inserting 'the International Chapter,' so that if adopted the paragraph would read:

> For the purpose of systematic government this organization shall be divided into the International Chapter; State, Provincial, District or Territorial Chapters; and Local Chapters. Proviso: This amendment shall take effect at the close of the 1951 convention (13c, 1949, p. 35). [A standing vote was taken and the motion lost 427 to 725.]

At the 1901 convention of Supreme Grand Chapter, held in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Mrs. Florence McKibbin of Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, presented a motion asking that Chapter A be designated as Great A because it was the original chapter. The motion was referred to the committee on revision (10, Nov. 1901, p. 282). No change was made in the designation of Chapter A that year. It was the 1911 convention of Supreme Chapter that voted to designate Chapter A, Iowa, as Chapter Original A. It is still so designated (1968).

The Golden Anniversary

P.E.O. had its fiftieth birthday on January 21, 1919. The event did not pass unnoticed, but some of the glamour that ordinarily surrounds such events was lost because it came at the close of World War I. Hostilities had ceased in 1918 but many war activities were still in operation. P.E.O. chapters had been active in buying and selling Liberty Bonds and many chapters had served as Red Cross units.

One outstanding commemorative feature used throughout the anniversary year was the lovely golden cover used on The P.E.O.

Record. It appeared first on the February issue then on all others throughout the year. The cover plate was designed by Miss Sylvia Holmstrom, then an instructor of art in the public schools of Havelock, Nebraska, and one of the charter members of Chapter AI. The classic, stylized design uses P.E.O. symbolism effectively. Seven marguerites representing the seven founders form the base of the design; tall burning torchiers suggest light; and a star at the top center symbolizes the P.E.O. emblem.

Another commemorative feature of the anniversary year was the publication of the first small volume of The Story of P.E.O. written by Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves.

The biennial convention of Supreme Chapter met in Denver, Colorado, that year. The convention was held in the El Jebel Temple, September 30 to October 3, 1919, with the Denver chapters as hostesses. Three notable accomplishments marked the convention: it celebrated the golden anniversary of P.E.O.; the goal of $100,000 in the Educational Fund was reached; and a complete revision of the constitution was made.

Two of the P.E.O. founders attended the convention, Mrs. Mary Allen Stafford and Mrs. Franc Roads Elliott. Mrs. Elliott had been in California the preceding year where she had worked on a thesis at the University of California, Berkeley. She stopped in Denver on her way home to Chicago. Mrs. Alice Bird Babb and Mrs. Suela Pearson Penfield were unable to attend the convention because of illness.

Convention opened with an evening meeting and Miss Durward, the presiding officer, called Mrs. Stafford and Mrs. Elliott to the platform. It must have been a breathtaking moment as those two handsome, poised women, dressed in black lace evening dresses, walked together down the long aisle and up the steps to the platform while the members of convention stood applauding.

Both of them addressed the convention. Mrs. Elliott spoke on Fifty Years of P.E.O. and Mrs. Stafford on The Real Meaning of P.E.O. Mrs. Babb, who had planned to be present, sent her paper, Consider the Lilies, which was read by Mrs. Reeves, and later printed in The P.E.O. Record. A letter from Mrs. Penfield appeared in The P.E.O. Record soon after convention.

Mrs. Helen M. Drake, immediate past president of Supreme Chapter, gave the keynote talk on Our Golden Jubilee. A P.E.O. pageant was presented by Chapter H, Boulder, and Chapter AL, Fort Collins. Thus ended the formal observance of P.E.O.'s fiftieth birthday.

13

The Pin
Emblem of Unity

The use of emblems within any group of people is a form of symbolism: a means of communication. Although symbolism may be used for one's own satisfaction, its use more often presupposes a recipient of the idea one wishes to convey.

The symbolic process has been used at all intellectual levels throughout all ages of mankind, from primitive groups to the complicated human society of the twentieth century. Anything that is used to stand for something else is a symbol. Statues and flags are symbols. Words are symbols. Every paper, magazine and book we read is made up entirely of symbols. Musical scores are symbols. Pictures are symbols. So are maps. So is money. On our paper money there are symbols upon symbols. There are mathematical symbols, political symbols and countless more. The use of symbols to denote membership within a specific unity of people is part of the natural symbolic progression.

So seven young women founded P.E.O. and chose a star for their emblem. Then they incorporated the star into a design for their pin. Exactly what symbolic idea or ideas did the founders hope to convey by wearing the pin? Exactly what idea or message do P.E.O.'s wish to convey to a recipient as they wear the pins at the close of the first century of P.E.O.?

The first message is for the one who wears the pin. To her, it denotes a oneness with others of similar ideas, ideals, achievements and aspirations. A true P.E.O. takes pride in wearing the pin, but is aware that it should be worn with love and dignity and modesty and with a deep sense of responsibility, else it would not reflect the character of P.E.O.

The second message would go straight and true to the recipient. Automatically, the emblem, seen on the shoulder of one of the founders, would have conveyed an instantaneous message. To anyone who saw it there it would have said, "You see we have pioneered by forming a society at a time when societies for women are practically unknown. This is part of our destiny."

If the recipient of a wearer's message is another P.E.O., the message might well be, "Please make yourself known so we may share interests and become friends." If the recipient is not a P.E.O. but has had some P.E.O. contact and recognizes the pin, the message may be, "Yes, I am a P.E.O. Please don't hesitate to make yourself known. I would like to hear about your P.E.O. friends." But if someone sees the pin who does not recognize it, the message could mean only, "I belong to some organization, to some group or unity of persons."

The message that each communicant reads into such a symbolic transfer of ideas will be determined by the breadth of his own knowledge and experience, and by his own ability to relate himself to his surroundings. That is exactly what Ella Stewart was doing about 1890 when she wrote one of her rare articles—this one about "the badge" and its significance.

> Our Star, as a badge, what could be more significant? ...The stars of heaven are bright because they are reflected upon. Likewise should our lives be made radiant by the reflection of God's love upon our hearts, giving us light and wisdom.
>
> Our star,...with its five shining points directing us...in the paths of virtue, and with those mystic letters, P.E.O., telling their own sweet story. The points radiating from them bear their message of faith in God and in each other. Purity in thought, speech and action. Justice to all in deed and opinion. Truth in speech and conduct. Love to God, to our friends and to each other. With the five lessons of virtue ever before us, their principles embodied in our own beautiful star, let us keep strict watch that its brilliance is not dimmed nor the beauty of a single point marred by ought we do or say.
>
> But let it shed over our hearts and lives a golden splendor and point us ever to God who guides us with his love. Our lives should be affected by our emblem in that we are pure minded, truthful, faithful and loving in character, wearing upon our hearts the zeal of our Master's love (10, May 1890, p. 88).
>
> "Aunt Ella"

Perhaps Ella was forty years old when she wrote the paragraphs quoted above, and was known affectionately as Aunt Ella to children of her friends.

Handling the Pin

Much charm and romance have been woven around the P.E.O. emblem, its choice, its use, its precious ownership. It was Alice Coffin who suggested the star and planned the design for the pin. The founders were agreed on those points according to Mary Allen (21, M.A.S., Feb. 25, 1925). Mary further stated that Mr. Hervey Crane sent for the pins. Through most of the fifteen years that followed Mr. Crane obtained pins for the P.E.O. society, but from various manufacturers. Usually a small number of pins was kept at the Crane Jewelry Store, ready to be engraved as needed. The minutes of Chapter A furnish the documentary source for this and much other information concerning pins and their handling.

P.E.O. grew and other chapters were formed but all pins continued to be ordered through Chapter A, the governing authority. That was a wise precaution since it assured uniformity of pins and a record of those entitled to wear them. It meant added financial responsibility for Chapter A because of occasional difficulty in collecting the money and paying Mr. Crane. The problem was solved October, 1870, when an amendment to the bylaws was adopted that required an initiation fee of $3.00, the chapter then being responsible for furnishing the pin.

There were other responsibilities connected with handling and wearing the pins. Rules were made but often they were difficult to enforce. Few, indeed, were the sets of minutes that did not record something relative to pins. Perhaps the greatest difficulty was encountered when P.E.O. college students insisted on lending their pins.

Periodically, all Chapter A pins were collected or called in and deposited, temporarily, with a designated officer. This was done in an effort to repossess pins that college girls persisted in lending to their gentlemen friends. It was against the rules for anyone except P.E.O.'s to wear the P.E.O. pin even though members of other societies exchanged theirs. Naturally this created problems for P.E.O.'s on the campus. If caught lending their pins, they were fined $1.00.

At Belden's Female Seminary pins were once collected for a different reason. It was during the time in the seventies when the second chapter of P.E.O. and the third chapter of I.C. Sorosis (Pi Beta Phi) were active on that campus. Rivalry became so acute that Mr. Belden ordered both groups to deposit their pins with him. He placed them in the bank vault until the girls could get along peaceably.

Three pins were once collected at Iowa Wesleyan for yet another reason. When Grand Chapter met at Mount Pleasant in 1889, it was learned that Dr. McFarland, President of Iowa Wesleyan University, had collected the pins of three P.E.O.'s in the very new Chapter AJ, the campus chapter of P.E.O. A committee called upon Dr. McFarland. He assured the ladies that two of the pins would be returned at the end of the fall term, and the third one when the owner's grade came up to standard.

The founders and other early initiates gave serious thought to the proper method of wearing the star. Its properly acknowledged place was on the left shoulder where it might be touched as a signal of distress or warning. It could also be worn for decoration at the discretion of the member, perhaps in the hair or on a collar.

Chapter A started the custom of draping the pins in black when a P.E.O. sister died. The custom continued into the early 1920's. The method of draping the pin differed somewhat in different chapters. Many spoke of a black crepe rosette worn under the pins. Others mentioned black ribbon bows. Some chapters draped their pins for 21 days, others for 30. One alternative for draping the pin was for chapter members not to wear their pins for 21 days (10, Oct. 1933, p. 4).

Until Grand Chapter was organized in October, 1883, Chapter A assumed all responsibility for P.E.O. pins, and for three more years continued to purchase and distribute them.

Pins and Jewelers
Notes from Minutes of Grand Chapter

1883. Chapter A's plan for handling the pin was adopted, viz.: That the Grand Chapter decide upon a sample pin to place in the hands of one manufacturer, each chapter to order pins from the firm decided upon.

Pins were then being manufactured in Jacksonville, Illinois, under the supervision of Chapter C, and were handled for Chapter A by the Crane Jewelry Store in Mount Pleasant. Presumably, this plan continued until 1886 when Mr. S. R. Mace of Moulton, Iowa, was appointed official jeweler.

1895. A plan was adopted to continue handling pins through one jeweler.

1896. A committee was appointed to draw up a contract with a jeweler [Mr. S. R. Mace] to furnish pins for $2.00. Committee members were Mrs. A. R. Dewey of Washington, Iowa, and Miss Orian Pendleton, Moulton, Iowa, treasurer of Grand Chapter. Mrs. Dewey was appointed to receive all orders and buy the pins.

1887. The committee on pins was ordered to buy up all surplus pins and when that supply was exhausted, the committee was empowered to contract for more pins of uniform size.

A motion to print P.E.O. on the pins in German script failed to carry.

1888. A motion was adopted to continue buying the pins from Mr. Mace, Moulton, Iowa, who had furnished the pins for two years. Mr. Mace was the brother-in-law of Orian Pendleton, treasurer of Grand Chapter. His wife was also a P.E.O. Mr. Mace continued as official jeweler until his resignation in 1908.

1889. There was discussion concerning the disposition of the pin of a deceased P.E.O. A motion was adopted permitting the pin to be buried with her, "unless a request to the contrary be made, in which case the local chapter should dispose of the pin as it deems best."

1891. Miss Orian Pendleton, president, presided at the 1891 convention of Grand Chapter. The name of Mrs. Mace, sister of Orian Pendleton, was mentioned often in the minutes.

Notes from The P.E.O. Record

August, 1894. Mr. Mace announced that he had made the first electrotype star for P.E.O., to be used on stationery or other printed material. The sale price was 25 cents.

December, 1894. "Mr. Mace has finally made a pin fine in shape and quality, and perfect in the even spacing of the letters."

February, 1908. Mr. S. R. Mace resigned after serving 22 years as official jeweler of P.E.O.

Lewis and VanSickle, Des Moines, Iowa, were appointed as official jewelers.

February, 1912. The new jeweler is J. F. Newman, New York.

December, 1915. A motion to reduce the size of the official pin was adopted at the convention of Supreme Chapter that met in Los Angeles, October 12-15, 1915.

May, 1920. Miss Caroline J. Tucker, a Minnesota P.E.O., was appointed official jeweler.

September, 1951. L. G. Balfour Company, Attleboro, Massachusetts, is now the official jeweler, making the official P.E.O. emblem.

Miss Caroline J. Tucker will continue to make the special items such as stationery and the pins for past presidents of provincial, state and district chapters.

Changes in Design of Pin

There were numerous changes in the design of the large pin during the forty-six years of its official use. Examples of most of the changes are on display (1968) in the historical rooms in the P.E.O. Memorial Building, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Each new supplier made his own die for the pins he manufactured. Samples were approved by Chapter A until Grand Chapter assumed responsibility for the pins. So pins made by one supplier could be expected to differ somewhat from those made previously. Then, too, changes were requested by members of the society from time to time.

The pins have always been made of good quality gold. The original pins were quite flat and the long points were plain. Only the black enameled letters P.E.O. appeared on the pin. Some of the changes made were in the curve of the pin, size and thickness of the letters, decoration around the edge and the addition of lightly etched lines above and below the letters. One change made the pin quite convex and was criticized because the pin looked smaller.

The greatest change in pins came in 1915 when a much smaller pin was adopted as the official emblem. Exchange of existing pins was voluntary, with members permitted to retain the large pins if they desired.

The decision to adopt a smaller pin was not made hastily, nor was it made without opposition. The first suggestion recorded was made at the convention of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1901. Mrs. Cobb of Hopkins, Missouri, said she had been requested to ask if our star could not be made very much smaller, still retaining the letters on it. "The move met with no favor."

There was discussion in 1902 about remodeling the pin with a view to copyrighting it. After investigation, the plan did not seem advisable. Agitation for a smaller pin continued and much discussion, pro and con, appeared in The P.E.O. Record. A vote to adopt a smaller pin lost in Saint Louis in 1911.

A recognition pin was suggested, a smaller, less conspicuous one for "street and outside wear," that P.E.O.'s might own in addition to the large emblem. Consideration was given to the suggestion but the idea of owning two pins was not generally accepted. Then at the 1915 convention of Supreme Chapter, Mrs. Ina Wittington, California, moved the adoption of a smaller official pin and the standing vote carried. Miss Ida Campbell of Colorado moved that members be permitted to retain the large pins if they desired instead of exchanging them for smaller ones. The motion also carried. Now (1968) those members may also own an official emblem if they desire.

Many pins were exchanged for smaller ones in the years that immediately followed. Members were allowed 55 cents for the old pins if bought before 1911 and 75 cents if bought from the current jeweler after 1911. The price of the new pin was $2.00. Notice of a reduction in price to $1.75 was announced in the January, 1917, P.E.O. Record. By 1920 the price was up to $2.50. In 1923 it was reduced to $2.25. Then through the pages of The P.E.O. Record, November, 1925, Mrs. Bowden announced a reduction from $1.50 to $1.25, which seems to have been the all time low.

Nostalgic articles about the pin continued to appear in The P.E.O. Record after the change in size was adopted. But a thoughtful, widely and variously quoted statement by Mrs. Lue R. Spencer, Nebraska, lent new perspective to the size of the pin. In essence she said, "not the size of the star, but the size of the P.E.O. who wears the star is of utmost importance" (10, Jan. 1916, p. 8).

The revision of the constitution and bylaws in 1919 made it obligatory for an inactive member to forfeit her pin. This ruling was not adopted as a disciplinary measure but rather as an attempt to discourage members from becoming inactive. It did. There were 1800 reinstatements the next two years.

The 1919 revision also established the office of executive secretary and set up legislation for pins to be handled through that office. The executive secretary kept a record of all orders and transmitted them to the official jeweler, then Miss Caroline J. Tucker, who engraved and mailed the pins.

It was unusual to find a P.E.O. trained to serve as official jeweler, but Miss Caroline Jane Tucker, a member of Chapter A, Minneapolis Minnesota, was indeed that person and was appointed soon after the 1919 convention of Supreme Chapter. A graduate of the Handicraft Guild School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Miss Tucker personally supervised the manufacture of the P.E.O. pins during the thirty-two years she served as official jeweler.

The Circle of Seven Marguerites

Pins for Past Presidents of State, District and Provincial Chapters

Mrs. Cornelia J. Sawyer designed the beautiful circle of seven marguerites with a tiny star in the center that became the pin for past presidents of Iowa State Chapter. Mrs. Sawyer, herself one of the past presidents, designed the pin in the early 1920's. The marguerites were of white enamel, each one different as each founder was different from the others. The letters P.P.I. appeared on the star. From Mrs. Sawyer's design, Miss Caroline J. Tucker, then official jeweler for P.E.O., manufactured the pin and has sold it for many years as a special item.

At the 1925 convention of Supreme Chapter, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, representatives of Past State Presidents' Clubs met and discussed a uniform pin to be worn (if so desired) by past presidents of state or provincial chapters (10, Nov. 1925, p. 7). The pin recommended was the one described above. The idea was received with favor and was referred back to state past presidents' clubs. Although its use is optional, many states use the pin, changing the identification on the star to fit the state, district or provincial chapter. The writer's pin has KANS in raised gold letters on the tiny star.

Mrs. Sawyer was president of Iowa State Chapter in 1916-1917.

Her convention voted to erect a tablet in Main Hall to commemorate the organization of P.E.O.

The Scroll

Pin for Past Presidents of Supreme Chapter

A pin was designed by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright about 1954. It was of gold in the form of a scroll, with four diamonds on the rolled right end. Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves was given the first pin; Mrs. Gertrude Tomhave, the second. Mrs. Wright presented Mrs. Tomhave's pin to her at the 1955 convention of Supreme Chapter, over which Mrs. Tomhave presided. The convention of 1967 adopted the following amendment: In recognition of her service to the sisterhood a member having received a credential as past president of Supreme Chapter shall be lent by Supreme Chapter the large emblem in use prior to October 14, 1915, with a diamond in the upper point. Upon death of a past president the president of the local chapter shall secure such recognition pin and send it to the executive secretary of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Jeweled Pins

Jeweled pins are rare in P.E.O. history. Undoubtedly some have never been recorded in P.E.O. source material, but the few that have, add luster to P.E.O. stories and express appreciation for extraordinary service to the society.

Miss Orian Pendleton, Centerville, Iowa, presided at the 1891 convention of Grand Chapter. She had served six years as treasurer before being elected president. She was competent and conscientious but she was much more than that. She loved people and communicated at a high level. She was a thoughtful person, kind, tactful and utterly devoted to P.E.O. Small wonder that the convention delegation chose to do something special for her. It was Mrs. Alice S. Spilman who made the following presentation:

> Miss President, your friends and sisters here assembled wish to present to you a small token of appreciation for your faithful service. A jeweled star has been chosen. May its jewels ever be to you a symbol of our love. We feel that your labors during the past seven years have added luster to our star, and we would now attest to you our knowledge of that by adding to yours some jewels emblematic of the fact. The star will be forwarded to you at an early date (10, Nov. 1891, p. 151).

Miss Pendleton, though quite overcome with such a gift and all that it represented, managed to express her characteristically gracious appreciation.

There is an unusual sequel to this story, told here through a letter from Orian's grandniece, written September 27, 1955 to Miss Erma Adams, hostess at the P.E.O. Memorial Building in Mount Pleasant, Iowa:

> 324 First Street N.E.
> Mason City, Iowa
> September 27, 1955
>
> Dear Miss Adams:
>
> Myrtle Babcock, a P.E.O. from Chapter GN, Mason City, Iowa, visited the Memorial Library in August. Myrtle called me when she returned home and asked me if I would write to you, something more about my Great Aunt Orian Pendleton's jeweled star which was presented to her by the Grand Chapter in the year of 1891. You can find the account of this story in the 1903 edition of the History of P.E.O., page 60-64. In the 1923 edition of the History [The Story of P.E.O.], page 90, you will find a picture of Orian wearing the jeweled pin.
>
> My grandmother Mace was one of five sisters and brothers who survived Orian. Each of the five was given a diamond from the jeweled pin. When I graduated from high school, my grandmother Mace gave me her diamond which I have mounted in a ring.
>
> My grandfather Mace was the first official jeweler to make the P.E.O. pins. He made them for twenty years—my mother's and grandmother's pins among them. My mother and I belong to Chapter GN.
>
> Sincerely,
> Julia Mace

Mrs. Mary D. Lawrence, then of Kansas City, Missouri, presided at the convention of Supreme Grand Chapter that met in Brookfield, Missouri, in 1907. Mrs. Lawrence practiced law in Kansas City with her husband in the firm Lawrence and Lawrence, being the first woman to be admitted to the bar in Missouri. Before studying law she had been a teacher and newspaper woman. She set high standards of business efficiency in P.E.O. while on the executive board. Missouri P.E.O.'s were proud of Mary Lawrence and at the 1907 convention, the Missouri delegation presented her with a diamond star with crescent gold setting (10, Oct. 1907, p. 255).

Miss Martha Winans was one of the P.E.O. pioneers in California. Her sister, Stella Winans Carver, established P.E.O. in California when she organized Chapter AK, Oceanside, January 3, 1889. A move to Escondido and the organization of Chapter B were next on Stella's schedule. Then came Los Angeles. Martha lived there, too. Together they presented the idea of P.E.O. to Los Angeles and firmly established it there. Stella was the first president of California Grand Chapter organized February 19-20, 1904. Martha was the fourth president 1907-1908. Her convention was in Los Angeles, April 22-24, 1908.

Martha also worked effectively on the executive board of Grand Chapter, as second vice president in 1894-1895, and as first vice president, 1916-1917. Chapter I, California, presented Martha with a jeweled pin at the 1911 convention of California Grand Chapter (10, June 1911, p. 143). No further information can be documented as of March, 1968.

The story of Alice Bird Babb's jeweled pin has been told many times. Alice and Ella Stewart were the two founders who remained in Mount Pleasant and continued to take an active part in the affairs of Chapter A: Ella, until she went to Eldora, Iowa, to teach early in the 1880's; Alice, until the Babb family moved to Aurora, Illinois, in 1906.

Chapter A celebrated its 33rd birthday with a banquet at the Harlan House. Mrs. Babb, as toastmistress, was about to close the program when Mrs. Florence McKibbin asked for recognition. She said Chapter A felt it owed a debt of gratitude to the noble seven, especially to Mrs. Babb for the sympathetic interest and pride she had always taken in the sisterhood, "and especially in this, the parent chapter" (10, Mar. 1902, p. 59).

She presented to Mrs. Babb a beautiful P.E.O. star brilliantly set with diamonds, one in each star point. "That Mrs. Babb's feelings would not permit a response of any length, was only to be expected, but the few words she said conveyed to every hearer how deeply this incident touched her" (10, Mar. 1902, p. 59).

"It thrilled Mrs. Babb to be so remembered and we [Mrs. McKibbin] hold in our possession a letter which abounds in thanks, which scintillates with literary beauty, in her delight and gratitude for the gift" (10, Dec. 1939, p. 20).

Alice wore the jeweled pin and Ella Stewart's original one to the fiftieth anniversary functions she attended.

This writing is in no way an attempt to record the complete list of jeweled pins, but rather is meant to show what special gifts the jeweled pins really were.

Mary Allen Stafford's Lost Pin

In the early 1880's the Stafford family moved to Washington, Iowa, where the Reverend Charles L. Stafford became pastor of the Methodist Church. About two years later, perhaps 1882 or 1883, Mrs. Stafford lost her P.E.O. pin while visiting her aunt in Washington.

Mary must have regretted that loss very much for the pin was one of the original seven. Eventually she replaced the lost pin with a new one which she wore more than forty years. After numerous moves, including the eight years that Dr. Stafford was president of Iowa Wesleyan University, the Staffords retired in 1917 and moved to Muscatine.

Then came 1924 when Chapter J, Washington, planned a luncheon and garden party with Mrs. Stafford as honor guest. Miss Fannie

Wilson, one of the older members of Chapter J, wrote the following story of that meeting, a copy of which is in the executive office:

> On June 26, 1924, Chapter J, Washington, Iowa, had as their guest of honor, Mrs. Mary Allen Stafford. During the afternoon the president of Chapter J, Mrs. Grace Stephen, welcomed Mrs. Stafford and told her we wanted to present her with a little token of the chapter's esteem, and they felt the gift they had chosen was one which she would appreciate more than anything they could give her. In a few well chosen words she presented Mrs. Stafford with her original P.E.O. pin which she had lost in the garden at her aunt's home about forty years before.
>
> Mrs. Susie Anderson, who in 1924 lived in the same home formerly occupied by Mrs. Stafford's aunt, Mrs. John Dodds, then explained how she found the pin only a short time before. In preparing her porch boxes for the summer she emptied out last year's dirt and in so doing the P.E.O. star came to light....Mrs. Anderson was astonished to find the name of Mary Allen on the back. The pin was restored by our president's jeweler husband to be presented to its happy owner.

Mary Allen Stafford's pin went into hiding again after Mary's death in 1927. It is believed to be in the possession of a distant relative who perhaps is not aware of its historic value to P.E.O. It may yet join Ella's pin in the historical case.

Other Lost Pins

Perhaps a small book could be written about lost P.E.O. pins, if such data could be assembled. Losses were many, especially before 1912 when safety clasps were added to the pins. Loops for guards were added in 1945.

So far as known, all of the founders except Ella Stewart lost their original pins, so Ella's pin is the only one of the seven in the historical case with other early P.E.O. pins.

It is thought that Alice Virginia Coffin's original pin was lost at a railway station, but it was never returned to its owner. She bought and wore another pin now in the historical case in Mount Pleasant. P.E.O. source material fails to record information about the pins worn so proudly by Hattie, Franc and Suela.

Periodically, unusual stories come to light about other pins, lost, then found by persons not P.E.O.'s, stories as of the little girl who found one and wore it happily to school one day. It was recognized by the teacher and regained by the teacher in exchange for another trinket.

Notices of lost or found pins appear in The P.E.O. Record. Three items are quoted below:

> Found at Harzfeld's Parisian Cloak Co. store in Kansas City, a P.E.O. pin marked "Cassie Russell, F '89." Anyone having knowledge of the owner of the pin may secure it by addressing Mrs. Grace Silverthorn Jones, 4341 Harrison Str., Kansas City, Mo. (10, Sept. 1920, p. 25).

Directly above that item was one noting the loss of Mrs. Jones' own pin marked "Grace Silverthorn, L '83." If that chapter letter and year are correct they suggest some unusual circumstances. Grand Chapter was organized in October, 1883. Delegates from the six active chapters participated: A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa; 2nd B, Fairfield, Iowa; C, Jacksonville, Illinois; F, Bloomfield, Iowa; I, Centerville, Iowa; and J, Iowa City, Iowa. D, Oskaloosa, and 2nd H, Burlington, while not formerly disbanded, were undergoing some form of inactive status. No other chapters were known to exist. But sometime that fall or winter a second chapter was organized at Jacksonville, Illinois. It is thought to have been active only a few months. Historians of P.E.O. in Illinois believe that such a chapter existed and was designated as K or L, probably K. Now one wonders if that elusive campus chapter was really Chapter L and if Grace Silverthorn was initiated there that fall of 1883. It could be.

The next Chapter L was Bethany, Missouri, organized October 1, 1887, and disbanded the following year. The letter was used again for Chapter L in Des Moines, January 3, 1890.

The next two quoted items are self-explanatory.

> I have in my possession a P.E.O. pin which I purchased from a young girl in our town, who was wearing it constantly. The P.E.O. pin is an old one, marked thus—Helen R. Bock, AA, '89. We have no AA chapters in Record that far back. [AA, Burlington, organized November 29, 1887, became Chapter P, Iowa when chapters were relettered according to states in 1893.] The pin was found on the streets of Burlington, Iowa, six or eight years ago, so the young lady told me. Any information gladly received.—Margaret McAfee, Farmington, Iowa (10, Oct. 1920, p. 25).

> Elsewhere in the Record is the notice of the finding of a P.E.O. pin, that was being worn by one not a P.E.O. Last month's Record carried the notice of a pin found in a modiste's shop. Both pins were taken up by P.E.O.'s who could legally and morally do so, since the pins belonged not to an unknown individual but to the P.E.O. Sisterhood.
>
> That is one phase of the emphasis made in the new constitution on the society's ownership of the pin. In both the cases referred to, had the pin belonged to an unknown individual, the right of another individual to claim it might be questioned. Since the pin does by our law belong to the sisterhood, and is only loaned to the member, any member can take up a pin being in the possession of one not a P.E.O., and return the same to the Chapter loaning it, according to the provision of the law (10, Oct. 1920, p. 22).

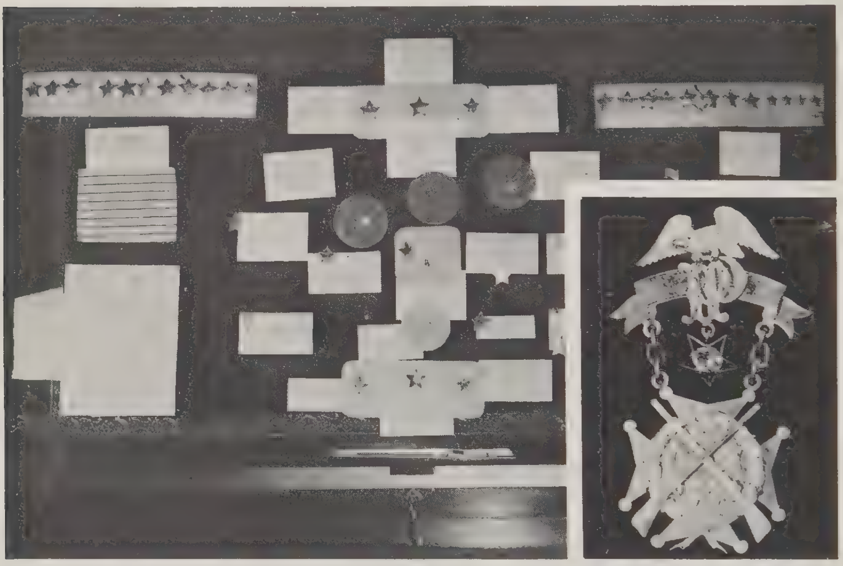
Alice Bird Babb's lost pin was never recovered, although an effort was made to locate it. The P.E.O. Record carried the story in 1893:

> An interesting relic to P.E.O. is in the possession of the gentleman who found it. It is the first P.E.O. pin ever made and was sent by the jeweler as a sample to the young ladies who formed the society. They were satisfied with it, kept it, and ordered more like it, and it has the single name

> Alice on its back. She lost it some ten years ago...on a visit to Illinois, on the cars she thinks, where it was found by a gentleman who seems loath to part with it (10, Oct. 1893, p. 151).

It seems this story needs another sentence reading, "Continued in the next issue." But it isn't there so one can only surmise the disposition the gentleman may have made of the pin if, indeed, he really found a pin, and if it were a P.E.O. pin with the name "Alice" on the back.

Pins in Historical Case
in P.E.O. Memorial Building
1968



Honor Medal Presented to
Iowa Wesleyan University
by Suela Pearson Penfield

1. The Ella Stewart Pin (Founder)

This is the only one of the original seven pins known to exist. It was worn by Ella until her death December 12, 1894. In accord with Ella's wishes the pin was given to Alice Bird Babb after Ella's death. After P.E.O. celebrated its Golden Anniversary (1919) Alice sent Ella's pin by Mr. Babb to the Memorial Building in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. The pin has long flat points with two small etched lines above the letters, two below, and a little etching around the edge.

2. Alice Bird Babb—Jeweled Emblem (Founder)

This pin was given to Alice by Chapter A at the thirty-third anniversary party of Chapter A held at the Harlan Hotel. After Alice's death the pin was sent to the Memorial Building in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

3. Alice Virginia Coffin—Second Pin (Founder)

This is not one of the original pins, but one that replaced it, and was worn by Alice until her death July 28, 1888. The pin was one of the early ones, large, curved, and has A.V.C. engraved on the back.

4. Mary Allen Stafford—Second Pin (Founder)

This is not one of the original pins, but the one that replaced it and was worn by Mary for more than forty years.

5. Lulu Corkhill Williams

This is Lulu's first pin. She was initiated by Chapter A, March, 1869. It is one of the early pins, but the letters are darker and more circular than the original seven pins.

6. Mollie Dungan Smith

Mollie was a member of Chapter B, at Belden's Seminary in Mount Pleasant. She is recorded as an initiate of 1870. This is an early large flat pin but with round letters. On the back of the pin is engraved "M. Smith—1869." This must not be Mollie's first pin or it would not have carried her married name. Neither is she recorded in source material as an initiate of 1869, but the early records are not accurate.

7. Miss Ione Ambler

Ione Ambler was the first or second initiate of P.E.O., after the founders, 1869. Probably not Ione's first pin. It is much like Alice Virginia Coffin's pin and carries at least three etched marks above and below the letters.

8. Nellie Hays Scott

This was Nellie's first pin. She was initiated at Belden's Seminary, in the early spring of 1871, by Effie Hoffman Rogers.

9. Marie Rose Penfield

Rose was the daughter of Marie Suela Pearson Penfield (Founder). Rose was a charter member of Chapter AH, Cleveland, Ohio, organized January 15, 1938. The pin was sent to the Memorial Building, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, after Rose's death March 3, 1962.

10. Winona Evans Reeves

This is the scroll pin for past presidents of Supreme Chapter. It was designed and manufactured first in 1955. Mrs. Reeves, who was president of Supreme Chapter 1909-1911, was given the first pin. It was sent to the P.E.O. Memorial Building after her death. The pin is a golden scroll with four diamonds on the right rolled edge.

11. Mary Berry Price Johnson

Mary Berry was a charter member of Chapter I, Centerville, Iowa, September 8, 1882. Chapter I became Chapter D, Iowa, under the new lettering. Mary Berry was the first president of Grand Chapter.

12. Jessie Mallory Thayer O'Neil

Jessie was initiated in 1889 by Chapter Z, Chariton, Iowa, later Chapter N, Iowa. She was president, Supreme Grand Chapter, 1892-1893.

13. Alice Cary Brooks Briggs

Alice was a Charter member Chapter AL, Superior, Nebraska, April 10, 1889. Chapter AL became Chapter D, Nebraska. Alice was president, Nebraska Grand Chapter, 1890-1891, and president of Supreme Grand Chapter, 1893-1895.

Other pins in the case represent specific years of manufacture.

Pins in Cornerstone of P.E.O. Memorial Library

Two P.E.O. pins were placed in the reliquary together with the numerous appropriate documents relating to the building of the P.E.O. Memorial Library. The reliquary was then sealed and placed in the cornerstone, or foundation stone, of the new building. As each item was placed in the box, its reason for being there was made known. The notations in regard to the two pins follow:

> Mr. Fred Baron Crane:
>
> Within this box my hands have placed a replica of the original P.E.O. star made in 1869 by my uncle Hervey N. Crane, in the same jewelry shop which I now operate as his successor. May this building ever be a symbol of honor to the seven Founders of P.E.O. who first wore this star of gold (6, c, p. 17).

The pin was the one worn by Maria Van Cise, an initiate of Chapter Original A, January 20, 1872.

Mr. Crane's statements were part of the prepared ceremony. It is doubtful that Mr. Hervey Crane made the pins, since that would have required special equipment, particularly for the enamel work. Certain it is that he "secured," "obtained" or "ordered" the pins as the founders stated it in much of their writing, and he continued to obtain the pins for Chapter A for sixteen years.

The present Crane store (1968) is on the north side of the square in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. According to the present owner, the store, in 1869, was on Main Street, just around the corner to the east.

Miss Caroline J. Tucker, official jeweler P.E.O. Sisterhood:

> Within this box my hands have placed the emblem of P.E.O. in its present official form. It was a happy inspiration which came to Alice Virginia Coffin on that far off winter day in 1869 when she suggested the golden star as the emblem of P.E.O. May the purpose of this building, the aims and achievements of this college and the ideals of the P.E.O. Sisterhood ever be high and shining as is the mystic symbolism of this five pointed star (6, c, p. 17).

All programs and ceremonies relative to building and dedicating the P.E.O. Memorial Library and the unveiling of the portraits two years later were "prepared by Winona E. Reeves, representing the Sisterhood, and Mr. Carl S. Williams, representing the board of trustees of Iowa Wesleyan College" (6, c, p. 11). The ceremonies were well arranged and superbly written. They are printed in full in The Story of P.E.O., 1924-1936.

Ruling—Use of Emblem

The executive board of Supreme Chapter, 1944-1945, ruled that there is only one official use for the P.E.O. emblem and that is to indicate active membership in a P.E.O. chapter. The executive board was unanimous in the decision that the design of our P.E.O. emblem should be kept for the one specific purpose for which it was intended.

50-year Numeral Guard Pin

A new item was approved recently in response to the increasing demand for a special pin to honor members who have been P.E.O.'s for fifty years or more. The P.E.O. Supply Department now stocks a 50-year numeral guard pin, available in two styles, plain gold or pearl set. A picture of the new guard pins appeared in The P.E.O. Record, January, 1967.

P.E.O. Insignia

The P.E.O. insignia—the star design with the letters P.E.O.—was registered as #766095 in the U.S. Patent Office on March 4, 1964.

14 The P.E.O. Record

The P.E.O. Record has been writing P.E.O. history for almost 80 years. The first issue appeared in January, 1889. Like all worthy projects, it grew out of a great need.

In the beginning, communication between P.E.O. chapters was by handwritten letters. After Grand Chapter was organized in 1883 and expansion began, that method became burdensome and far from adequate.

The first mention of P.E.O.'s publishing a periodical appeared in Mrs. Nellie Ambler Campbell's report to the 1885 convention of Grand Chapter. Her thirteenth suggestion for revision of laws and policies was: "I would greatly like to see a little quarterly paper started ...provided it could be kept up and not allowed to die. Perhaps if not too expensive a sort of roster or catalogue of members might be printed" (13, a, 1885, p. 9). The matter was discussed and received a favorable vote, however, little quarterly papers cost money and funds were not available (2, pp. 43-44).

It was the 1888 convention that voted to table the cook book, proposed at the 1887 convention, and publish a monthly paper. Funds were still meager with only $531.53 in the treasury but faith was there and the courage to try a needed project. Three members, Mrs. Effie H. Rogers, serving her second year as president of Grand Chapter, Miss Nannie Torrence and Mrs. Carrie M. Oglivie, were elected to make arrangements for the paper. The committee reported thus at the evening meeting:

> Mrs. Effie H. Rogers was chosen Editor-in-Chief of the paper. Salary to be $40 a month. The paper to be published at Oskaloosa, [Iowa]. The editor to choose her own corps of assistants. Subscription price to be 75 cents a year in advance. Paper to be published monthly. The P.E.O. Record to be the name of the publication (2, p. 112).

Convention voted to accept the report, and Mrs. Alice Bird Babb and Mrs. Carrie M. Oglivie were chosen assistant editors.

The first issue of The P.E.O. Record, January, 1889, rolled off the press of Johnson and Shackley Brothers in Oskaloosa, December 27, 1888. It was a 16 page magazine with historical and inspirational articles, home hints, Grand Chapter news, chapter letters, and much more. Mrs. Rogers had stitched the pages for binding, and addressed, wrapped, and mailed the magazines. Ten months later she estimated that she had done 26,666 yards, or more than 15 miles, of stitching.

The magazine was a great success. It was enjoyed by members and it answered a very real need of the society. Finances were troublesome. Mrs. Rogers, president of Grand Chapter as well as editor of The P.E.O. Record, reported 451 subscriptions and noted that the actual cost of printing the magazine was 6 3/4 cents per copy. A subscription price of 75 cents a year was scarcely adequate. Local advertising was not too successful with subscribers living in a dozen or more states.

Mrs. Rogers and members of the executive board worried with the financial situation for two years. At the convention of Grand Chapter in October, 1890, the editor's salary was cut from $40 to $25 a month. It was voted to continue the magazine for another year and make every possible effort to make it self-supporting, the magazine to be dropped at the end of the year if that could not be done.

Mrs. Rogers declined re-election as editor. Miss Mary Osmond, owner and editor of the Osceola Gazette, Osceola, Iowa, was elected although she was not in convention. According to Miss Osmond, she was not notified of the election until nearly two weeks later when Mrs. Thayer, recording secretary of Grand Chapter, wrote to ask her if she were a P.E.O. Printing of The P.E.O. Record was moved to Osceola. Miss Osmond was an excellent choice. A capable editor, she could also write, set type, run the press or do any other necessary printing chore. She was economical and managed P.E.O. funds with great care, but they were never quite adequate. The convention of 1891 recognized that Miss Osmond had produced a magazine of high quality and had done it economically—$297.51 plus her salary of $25 per month. The cost to Grand Chapter was $204.50, about half the total for the previous year. As an economy measure the Record was not issued in September, 1891, and September, 1893. Grand Chapter continued to pay additional costs.

In 1893, at the convention in Waterloo, Iowa, it was decided to ask for bids for publishing The P.E.O. Record, the bidder to assume all responsibility for the magazine both editorially and financially. Two bids were received, one from Miss Osmond; and another from Mrs. Siddie P. Richards of Waterloo. The bid went to Mrs. Richards, whose husband was publisher of the Waterloo Courier. Printing of The Record was moved to Waterloo.

Mrs. Richards was obsessed with the idea of making The P.E.O. Record pay for itself. She came close to reaching her goal the first biennium only by practicing the usual strict economies, by cutting the number of pages to eight or twelve in some issues, and by combining two issues June and July, 1894. Her copy was bright and readable; she introduced a cover design; and she ran pictures of prominent members. The subscription list had not grown to any great extent and prospects for continuing the magazine on the current basis were not encouraging. Some drastic change was needed, and by 1895 Mrs. Richards was ready to present such a change to the convention of Grand Chapter.

Mrs. Richards recommended that the subscription to The P.E.O. Record become a part of the annual dues of all members, thus making every member a subscriber. Her recommendation, as adopted, provided for twenty-five cents to be added to the dues, thereby creating a fund to be known as The Record Fund.

It was a good idea and it worked. The future of The P.E.O. Record was assured. The same financial policy is still followed (1968), allocation of dues for the present magazine being 85 cents per capita.

In 1893 there were nearly 3,000 P.E.O. members in 67 chapters in 10 states. In 1967 there were 162,767 active members in 4,168 chapters in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six Canadian provinces.

Mrs. Richards continued as editor through another biennium or until 1897, when Miss Osmond was elected for a second time and continued in that office until her resignation in 1913.

Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers, who edited The P.E.O. Record the first two years of its existence, was elected to the office again and served until her death in 1918.

Those three women might well be called the pioneer editors of The P.E.O. Record. Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves, who followed them, said: "To those three women who inaugurated the publication of The Record, who stood by it in its hard years, who gave manual labor to it as well as literary ability, to them is all honor for establishing P.E.O.'s first project, one that has served the Sisterhood well" (10, Jan. 1939, p. 11).

Mrs. Reeves was editor of The P.E.O. Record for 31 years, 1918 to 1949. Hers was the magic touch that caught and recorded those mid-century years of the sisterhood. Her P.E.O. background began in 1889, as did that of The P.E.O. Record. It extended to the end of her life in 1955. She filled her own distinctive niche as editor because of her delightful personality, her knowledge of P.E.O., her ability and training, her sense of history, and her knowledge of how The P.E.O. Record could best serve the sisterhood.

The last sentence might also apply to Mrs. Edith Markham Wallace who became editor in 1949. With her fine literary sense and writing ability, and her many years of service to P.E.O., she was a natural to fill the difficult spot left by the resignation of Mrs. Reeves. The following quotation concerning the two is from the pen of Mrs. Alvina Mattes who followed Mrs. Wallace as editor in 1961. It appeared in The P.E.O. Record, June, 1961, the first issue with Mrs. Mattes as editor:

> Under the editorship of Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Wallace, fruits of early labors came to flower and The P.E.O. Record blossomed from a 6 1/2 x 9 inch pamphlet to a quality paper magazine in its present size.
>
> It is Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Reeves that will be remembered by most of our present readers. They made The P.E.O. Record a magazine that you "hate to throw away" by selecting for it articles of lasting inspirational value (10, June '61, p. 5).

Miss Elsie Irene Shoemaker, a member of the department of Technical Journalism at the Oklahoma A and M College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, served as associate editor with Mrs. Wallace. She edited local chapter news, personals, notices of marriages, Chapter Eternal, officers of local chapter groups, and furnished numerous feature articles for The P.E.O. Record. Hers was a fine service to P.E.O.

When the new executive office building was built in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1960-1961, office space was included for The P.E.O. Record, since an effort was being made to bring all departments together in one location. Mrs. Wallace did not care to make the move so she resigned as editor and was succeeded by Mrs. Alvina Mattes, whose home was in Des Moines. In the first issue published from the new location Mrs. Mattes wrote:

> Though not housed in its own quarters until now, The P.E.O. Record has never been a foundling. Through the years it has been tended with extreme love and devotion by five editors who have brought it into their own homes and nursed it through the good years and the lean (10, June, '61, p. 4).

Mrs. Mattes has won a distinctive place for herself in the hearts of grateful P.E.O.'s who like the things she does for The P.E.O. Record and the way she does them.

Having office space for the growing demands of editorial work associated with the magazine and handling the changes for the mailing list facilitated reorganization of producing the 32 page monthly magazine. A circulation department was set up to handle the thousands of changes in name and address made each month for the mailing list. Mrs. Eve Hillman was in charge of organizing that department and in the 1965-67 biennium of adding required Zip Codes to the entire mailing list and rearranging it accordingly. With the new office facilities and office help, some of the work formerly done by the board of trustees of The P.E.O. Record was brought to the editorial offices: acceptance and billing for Reader Ads; billing for cost of engravings used in the magazine; taking orders for the Annual Directory of Officers which is published each year by P.E.O.

The P.E.O. Record is the official publication of P.E.O. It has many functions. It reports convention proceedings, and keeps members informed about P.E.O. projects. It acquaints members with officers and activities of Supreme Chapter, and with all activities of the organization.

Through the years it has undergone many changes, both in size and context and in policies under which it functions. Several are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

The first formal contract between the printers and the sisterhood was executed in 1899. In 1911 the board of trustees for The P.E.O. Record was established and the business management of The P.E.O. Record was placed in its hands.

Chapter letters appeared in The Record with the first issue. In 1890 a journalist was appointed in each P.E.O. chapter to write the letters and send other information to The P.E.O. Record. With the constitution and bylaw revision of 1919, the office of journalist was abolished and the corresponding secretary assumed those duties.

The gold-tone cover plate, designed by Miss Sylvia Holmstrom for the golden anniversary of P.E.O., 1919, was used first in February and through the remainder of the year. The same design was used through the next four years, but in different colors.

The P.E.O. Record was frozen at 32 pages during World War II.

The title for the memorial page in The Record was changed in April, 1928, from In Memoriam to Chapter Eternal.

The general style of the magazine was changed in 1931. Better paper was used, a modern format adopted, and monthly change of cover design came into use that year.

During the 1965-67 biennium, the Circulation Department faced the awesome task of affixing zip codes to all mailing addresses.

Another long-felt need became fact in that biennium. Each member became responsible for sending her own change of address to The P.E.O. Record. A form for that purpose is printed in each Record.

One of the exciting developments in The P.E.O. Record in 1967 and 1968 is the use of color on its pages.

It was Mrs. Reeves who said, "A very earnest effort has been made to keep the magazine abreast of the times in appearance, to observe the rules of good journalism in so far as possible, but above all the effort has been to serve P.E.O. in all of its departments and in all of its projects" (10, Jan., 1939, p. 12).

Mrs. Alvina Mattes, the current editor, made the following statement in her report to the 1967 convention of Supreme Chapter: Editorially, effort has been made to keep the content of the magazine interesting, informative, and varied, with the thought in mind that it must be valued by P.E.O.'s of all ages (10, Nov. 1967, p. 31).

Historical data in this chapter have been established from the minutes of Grand Chapter, Supreme Grand Chapter and Supreme Chapter; from The White History, and the Story of P.E.O., and from articles in The P.E.O. Record.

Effie Hoffman Rogers

Effie Louise Hoffman was born May 13, 1853, in Jackson, Ohio, the daughter of Dr. David Allen Hoffman and Emily Smith Hoffman. When Effie was eight years old, the family moved west to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where her father practiced medicine the rest of his life.

Effie attended public schools and the Oskaloosa College, then spent a year, 1869-1870, at Meadville, Pennsylvania, where she was the first woman to be admitted to Allegheny College. She finished her education at Belden's Female Seminary, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, graduating in 1872 with a degree of Bachelor of Philosophy.

She was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter B, June 19, 1870, while a student at the seminary. After graduation she organized the fourth chapter of P.E.O., Chapter D, Oskaloosa.

In 1880, Effie Hoffman was married to John F. Rogers and they went to Great Bend, Kansas, to make their home. Their two children were born in Kansas and both Mr. Rogers and their infant son died there. Mrs. Rogers and her daughter, Emily, returned to Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1884 and made their home with Effie's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Hoffman.

Effie Hoffman Rogers

Effie soon resumed P.E.O. activities, and for the next eight or ten years, the activities were a necessary and demanding part of her life. She reorganized Chapter D in 1884; served three years as president of Grand Chapter; and set The P.E.O. Record in motion, editing the magazine the first two years of its existence, 1889 and 1890.

In 1913 she was elected editor of The P.E.O. Record a second time, a position she held until her death in 1918.

Effie Hoffman Rogers was a woman with many interests and many abilities, and she possessed a tremendous capacity for work. She was "engaged in literary work as editor, reporter, and publisher; in educational work as teacher, member of the Oskaloosa school board, and county superintendent of schools; in business, as representative of the publishing houses of Silver, Burdette and Company, and the Prang Educational Company of Boston, manager of the Iowa branch of Fisk's Teachers Agency, and Iowa representative for the Dickson-Graff Confection Company" (2, p. 48).

Mrs. Rogers lived in Boston several years while her daughter attended college there. In 1915, two years after she became editor of The P.E.O. Record the second time, she moved to LaJunta, Colorado, to be near her daughter Emily, a registered nurse.

Effie edited the February, 1918, Record while ill in Kansas City in January. She left Kansas City by train January 28 and died at her home in LaJunta, February 7, 1918.

Miss Mary Osmond

Mary Osmond was born near Philadelphia, the daughter of William R. and Ann Samms Osmond. The family moved to Iowa when Mary was too young to remember it.

The father "homesteaded" a farm near Hopeville, Clark County, Iowa. The family lived the life of frontier people. There was little that Mary Osmond did not learn about farm work.

There were good books, magazines, and newspapers on that farm, and Mary, because of her vigorous, seeking mind, absorbed a generous education from them.

She attended the Southwestern Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, for a time, then taught school in and near Osceola and Murray, Iowa. She was remarkably successful as a teacher and in a few years was elected county superintendent of schools, the first woman to hold the office in the county and one of the first in the state.

Mary Osmond

Miss Osmond had written stories, and sketches and news items for various periodicals, and enjoyed doing it. At the end of her second term of office as county superintendent she decided to take up newspaper work as a vocation. She worked as associate editor of the Osceola Sentinel and later started her own weekly paper, the Osceola Gazette. Fifteen months later her paper merged with the Sentinel and she became half owner. She edited the paper for many years.

She also edited The P.E.O. Record from 1890 to 1893 and 1897 to 1913. She missed it greatly after she resigned for it seemed like a member of her family.

She was popular in conventions and made friends for herself and P.E.O. in all of them. She was a firm believer in equal suffrage and was said to have written on one of her tax checks, "Paid under protest, taxation without representation."

The Osceola Tribune said, "She was a writer of very much prominence, from time to time having articles and stories in the best periodicals. She wrote under the pen name of 'Marmon' and many Osceola people today treasure stories they have clipped and saved."

Rugged, straightforward, honest, Mary Osmond could be depended upon. The Tribune said of her, "with her passing away Osceola loses, beyond a doubt, its most brilliant woman citizen."

Siddie Pierce Richards

Siddie Pierce was born in Belfast, Maine, the daughter of Major Abial H. and Sophronia Ripley Pierce, who moved to Fairfield, Iowa, when Siddie was still a child.

She attended the State University of Iowa, where she met Julian W. Richards. They were married in 1879. Mr. Richards was a journalist. He became a newspaper correspondent well known throughout Iowa and Washington, D.C., where they lived during the later years of their married life. He died in 1912.

It was while they lived at Waterloo, Iowa, that Mrs. Richards edited The P.E.O. Record for four years. She was devoted to the idea of The P.E.O. Record and concerned for its future. She felt there should be some way to place it in a satisfactory financial condition.

Siddie Pierce Richards

Mrs. Richards was known as a brilliant woman, clever, original and well informed. She was associated with many organizations but, as she said, "there is not one that comes so close to my heart as P.E.O."

Mrs. Richards was married to Warren Thummel of New York City in 1914.

Winona Evans Reeves

Winona Evans Reeves

Many biographical data concerning Winona Evans Reeves are well documented and well known. Presented below, as excerpts from an autobiographical sketch written by hand in 1947 for Mrs. Roscoe Graves of Emporia, Kansas, they become something more than facts and figures. The sketch is not printed elsewhere in P.E.O. source material.

Winona Evans, born August 14, 1871, was the daughter of Dr. James M. Evans and Helen Lusk Evans:

> My father was a medical doctor, a graduate of the medical school in Baltimore, Maryland, out of which came the Johns Hopkins school. My mother was educated in The Young Ladies Seminary in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in the early '60's. I was born in a village in southeastern Iowa, Big Mound. It is now only a telephone pole and a rural mail box – a deserted village.
>
> My father was, during all of his professional life, a country doctor. He was a Presbyterian Elder and if he couldn't cure a patient, he could kneel down beside his bed and pray him straight to Glory.
>
> I had two sisters. We went to private and public schools in our childhood and all three of us had preparatory training in a Quaker school in Salem, Iowa, Whittier Academy.
>
> I attended Iowa Wesleyan for two years and was graduated B.S. in 1891. In 1896 I earned a Master's degree, and in 1944 Iowa Wesleyan gave me a doctorate, L.H.D.... I taught high school for six years, three of them in Omaha, Nebraska.
>
> In 1897 I was married to Harry J. Reeves – manufacturing chemist... He was ill the last years of his life and died in 1945. We have two children – Helen Lusk Casey...[and] Agnes Evans Colville....
>
> One of the things I like to do is to travel. With the first money I earned, I went, in 1895, to Europe and I have gone three times since.... I went as a delegate, in 1938, to a convention of women from many countries, a meeting called "International Week."... The delegates were women who wrote for the public prints.... I belonged then and still do to the National

> Federation of Press Women. The purpose of the meeting was "Peace through Friendship." ...I was elected vice president from the U.S.A. ...It was a great experience.
>
> I was society editor of the Keokuk, Iowa, Gate City. Since 1918 I've edited The Record, 29 years. By this time I should be much better at it than I am. This [biennium] is the last that I shall hold the job....
>
> Was initiated in the Founders' chapter. Original A, in 1889. Was president Iowa State Chapter, [1903-1904] and president of Supreme Chapter, 1909-1911....
>
> For many reasons I am glad that my days are running out as a working woman for I am old and tired—and I want to read (22, 1947).

Edith Markham Wallace

Edith Markham was born in Menominee, Wisconsin; lived her early years there and in Cookston, Minnesota; then moved with her family to Tacoma, Washington, where she graduated from high school, and attended the Tacoma Normal School and the University of Washington. She taught seven years before her marriage to John Wallace of Seattle, who was a manufacturer. They had one son, Frank Markham Wallace.

Edith Markham Wallace

Edith was a woman of great capacity, a serene woman with many talents and many interests. She was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter A, Seattle, Washington, in 1908. She served her chapter, her state, and was president of Supreme Chapter, 1929-1931. Eighteen years later, Edith was appointed editor of The P.E.O. Record, and continued in that capacity for eleven years.

After her presidency of Supreme Chapter, Mrs. Wallace must have returned easily to her well-established career as a writer. She had written extensively for magazines in the 1920's and 1930's, including juvenile magazines.

She was actively interested in the League of American Pen Women. She taught classes in writing at the Summer Writers' Conference at the University of Washington. She conducted a large book-review class, was active in her church, Presbyterian, and in other organizations of her choice. It is appropriate that her name appears in Who's Who of American Women.

Alvina Mattes

Alvina Iverson Mattes is a native Iowan, her childhood home being near Stanhope, Iowa, where she attended high school. She received her B.S. degree in journalism and home economics at Iowa State University. In college she was a member of Mortar Board, Phi Kappa Phi, Theta Sigma Phi, Omicron Nu, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Delta Sigma Rho; was editor of the home economics magazine, a member of the Student Publication Board and Cardinal Guild.

Alvina Mattes

Her journalistic experience includes work as a free lance writer and food publicist; as food editor, The Chicago Daily News; associate editor, Country Gentleman magazine; woman's editor, Successful Farming magazine. In 1945 she was married to Joseph S. Mattes, newspaperman. They lived in Chicago, Illinois; Des Moines, Iowa; and Dubuque, Iowa, where Mr. Mattes was associated with The Chicago Daily News, The Des Moines Register and Tribune, The Dubuque Telegraph Herald. Previous to becoming editor of The P.E.O. Record, Mrs. Mattes wrote a popular daily food column for The Des Moines Register, this work being done from her home.

There are two daughters and one son in the family. Family membership is in the Presbyterian Church. Alvina was an initiate of Chapter IK, Dubuque, Iowa. In Des Moines she was a member of Chapter JJ which she served as president.

15 Educational Fund

P.E.O. searched many years for a unified project, one that would be worthy of the combined efforts of all P.E.O.'s. The surprising thing was for it to originate P.E.O. Day, June 18, 1904, at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis, Missouri.

At the 1903 convention of Supreme Grand Chapter in Lincoln, Nebraska, Chapter O, Saint Louis, proposed the idea of a P.E.O. building at the exposition, a building that might continue to be used by P.E.O. A P.E.O. Day was decided upon; $200 was voted by convention to help finance it; and Chapter O was authorized to ask chapters for contributions, and to plan and to manage the affair. Members of Chapter O were assisted by Mrs. McCoy Andrews, a P.E.O. from Washington, D.C., and a member of the Board of Lady Managers of the Exposition.

Chapter O wrote letters to all P.E.O. chapters and collected a generous fund. P.E.O. Day was observed by a reception and program "calculated to make P.E.O. better known to the world."

When it was over and all expenses paid, there was a balance of $658.88 in the fund. That amount was turned over to Supreme Grand Chapter at the convention of 1905, and Mrs. Andrews and members of Chapter O made the final report on the P.E.O. Day project. It was suggested that the money might be used for a memorial fund, a memorial to the founders. The convention voted to enlarge the amount to $800, and Mrs. Andrews was placed in charge of the fund.

Mrs. Mary D. Lawrence, who was elected president of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1905, requested state and local chapters to contribute to the fund and to be ready to make definite suggestions for its use at the 1907 convention.

Came the 1907 convention at Brookville, Missouri, and three projects were presented. Mrs. Emilie Costigan, Denver, Colorado, presented the proposition of a P.E.O. Home in Colorado. Mrs. Addie

Manner, Kansas City, presented a plan for establishing a printing plant. Mrs. Lillian Pollock Parmele, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, suggested scholarships for worthy young women.

Scholarships appealed to many because of the educational element, although it meant placing funds in comparatively few localities. During the discussion that followed, Mrs. Luella A. McHenry of Des Moines, Iowa, suggested loaning the funds instead of creating scholarships.

When the question was called up for vote the following morning, Mrs. Costigan moved that the memorial fund be used for a P.E.O. home. Mrs. Parmele moved to amend the motion by substituting the word "scholarships" for "home." That changed the whole intent of the motion but was ruled in order. Before the amendment was put, Mrs. Lou R. Spencer, Lexington, Nebraska, moved to amend the amendment. The motion as finally carried was, in effect, that the memorial fund be loaned for educational purposes. Mrs. Winona E. Reeves moved that the fund hereafter be called the Educational Fund. The motion carried. In that manner P.E.O.'s first great philanthropy was adopted.

At that time gifts had increased the Educational Fund to $2,000. Mrs. Andrews was made custodian of the fund for the 1907-1909 biennium. A committee of three was appointed to organize the work of the new project. Mrs. Lillian Parmele of Nebraska, Miss Virginia Corbett of Colorado, and Mrs. Mary McDonald Knapp of Iowa were named to the committee, and the first loan was made in May, 1908.

The first board of trustees was appointed in 1909, and rules governing the fund were adopted at that time. From 1909 to 1916 the fund grew from $5,000 to $40,000.

At the convention of Colorado State Chapter in 1917 the slogan "$100,000 in the Educational Fund by 1919," was adopted. Similar action by other states followed. At the Golden Jubilee convention in 1919 every state was reported on the roll of honor and the total in the fund amounted to $111,800.

In 1921 the Illinois convention adopted the slogan, "$200,000 in the Educational Fund by 1925." The 1921 convention of Supreme Chapter that met in Kansas City also adopted the slogan. Although the fund had been increased greatly, requests for loans were even greater. The fact that the fund reached $204,168.48 in 1925 was highly gratifying to those in charge.

A second fund, the Educational Endowment Fund, was increasing, too. It was established at the 1919 convention of Supreme Chapter by a gift of $500 from Chapter O, Saint Louis, Missouri. Colorado chapters in charge of entertainment at the convention of Supreme Chapter in Denver in 1919 added $1,700 to the Endowment Fund.

Educational Fund Students

and Mrs. Flora Teasdale of Oklahoma gave $100, bringing the total to $2,300 when established. Only the interest from the Endowment Fund is placed in the Educational Loan Fund.

The P.E.O. Educational Fund fitted perfectly into other P.E.O. patterns. It caught the imagination of P.E.O.'s possibly because of its purpose: helping to educate worthy young women, that they might help themselves. The fact that the fund continued to grow and enjoy the sustained interest of P.E.O. is due, primarily, to the human element involved – the young women themselves. Therein lies the foundation for the great philanthropy the P.E.O. Educational Fund was destined to become.

From the time the fund was established, biennial reports of executive secretaries and trustees reflect devotion to the fund, tell the story of the growth and development of the fund, and attest to its usefulness. Following are brief items from reports of trustees over ten-year intervals.

1927

Total, Educational Loan Fund	$384,652.65
Total, Endowment Fund	19,720.17
Total, P.E.O. Educational Fund	$404,372.82

The following quotes are from the biennial report of Mrs. Aura G. Toby, chairman of the board of trustees, P.E.O. Educational Fund, 1925-1927:

> From 1908 to 1921, 600 loans were granted; 1921 to 1923, 237 loans were granted; 1923 to 1925, 420 loans were granted; 1925 to 1927, 742 loans were granted.
>
> During the biennium, 1925-1927, your board has received 1,050 requests for loans. Of this number we have granted 742 loans,... 10 were rejected, and 298 were returned because no funds were available.
>
> The requirements of the board in regard to applications are being followed carefully by chapters in their selection of applicants. This accounts for the few rejections, and is another proof of the wisdom of the policy of having chapter recommendations.

1937

Total, Educational Loan Fund	$797,029.00
Total, Endowment Fund	24,724.32
Total, P.E.O. Educational Fund	$821,753.32

The following notes are from the biennial report of Miss Bertha Sallee, chairman of the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Educational Fund, 1935-1937:

> From the establishment of the fund in 1907 to September 1, 1937, 5,971 girls have received loans amounting to $2,480,815.80.

> During the biennium, 1,126 files have been examined, of which 1,085 were granted, 18 rejected, 15 withdrawn, and 3 deferred. On September 1,125 files were in process.
>
> During the first ten months of the biennium excessive requests for funds so reduced the surplus...that from August, 1936, to April, 1937, we were able to consider requests from seniors only.
>
> The funds' greatest handicap...as of every other loan fund, is that of delinquent loans. Maximum loans for freshmen were reduced from $800 to $600.

1947

Total, Educational Loan Fund	$812,656.62
Total, Endowment Fund	25,066.82
Total, P.E.O. Educational Fund	$837,723.44

From 1907 to 1947, 9,020 girls have received $3,612,740.45

The decade, 1937-1947, covered the period of World War II. Numerous events, suggestions, and decisions, resulting from those years affected the P.E.O. Educational Fund. They are sketched as follows from information in Proceedings of Conventions of Supreme Chapter, 1943, 1945, and 1947. They reflect something of P.E.O.'s adjustment to the war years and those that followed.

Applications for loans decreased in startling degree from 1939 to 1945. During the 1939-1941 biennium, 1,265 loans were granted; 1941-1943, 708 loans were granted; and 1943-1945 only 141 were granted.

Mrs. Ruth E. Stolter, chairman of the board of trustees, P.E.O. Educational Fund, in her report to the 1945 convention of Supreme Chapter gave, as probable reasons for the decrease: better income positions of parents and young people in general; a considerable number of potential loan holders in normal times, now working, marrying, or serving in the armed forces; government subsidy of training for nurses and other specialized courses; a marked reluctance among responsible students to borrow because of the uncertainty of the future (13, c, 1945, p. 91).

Both Mrs. Stolter and Mrs. Hazel E. Hine, executive secretary, voiced the opinion that the decrease in loans was not due to lack of interest in the fund, but was a direct result of the war and current economic conditions. They anticipated a steady increase in applications.

Mrs. Stolter, in continuing her report for the trustees of the Educational Fund, suggested the following ideas for study:

> The trustees have from time to time received inquires and suggestions relative to the possibility of making scholarships or fellowship grants available from our loan fund. Also the idea of some sort of exchange-student plan, whereby a very limited number of girls from foreign

> countries might take under-graduate, graduate, or professional study in the United States and Canada has been presented frequently.
>
> At present, no part of our fund can be used in such a manner, outside of the regular loan procedure....The trustees do not recommend any change, especially at this particular time in our peace reconversion. However, we do believe that an open mind and a courageous attitude toward change should be maintained throughout our membership. Our progress has been through vision, and it may be that future developments will permit us to take an important step toward the promotion of international understanding, and one well in keeping with our P.E.O. ideal of service to humanity (13, c, 1945, pp. 95-96).

Mrs. Hine, in closing her narrative report expressed the hope that P.E.O. might perhaps establish a few student fellowships for qualified and worthy girls from the war-devastated countries (13, c, 1945, p. 99).

Similar ideas were further stressed, with definite directives for implementation, by the Post-war Planning Committee. This committee had been authorized by the 1943 convention of Supreme Chapter (13, c, 1943, p. 38). Early in the following biennium, Mrs. Carrie B. Simpson, newly elected president of Supreme Chapter, appointed the following members to the committee: Mrs. Emily M. Baldwin, chairman, Mrs. Maude G. Brinck, Mrs. Dorothy Jordan Livermore, and Mrs. Hope G. Robinson.

The committee report, as given by the chairman, Mrs. Baldwin, outlined 14 proposals to the sisterhood. Proposals 1, 2, and 3, were directed to the P.E.O. Educational Fund:

> 1. We suggest that chapters continue a full measure of support to the Educational Loan Fund, and studiously seek out young women, of high scholarship and personality traits, who thereby will be enabled to do specialized work in the fields of child welfare, medicine, education, religion, sociology or international relations.
> 2. We also suggest that chapters keep a history of their Loan Fund girls, including background, record of scholarship, and the service they render in the after years. Such a permanent record can be of untold interest and inspiration in the future as well as the present.
> 3. As a contribution toward better understanding between nations this committee suggests that the rules governing the use of the Educational Loan Fund of the Sisterhood be given not only an interpretation liberal enough to include loans to foreign students for study in the United States and Canada, but that the Board of Trustees of the Fund seek to find such students through the proper channels, such as the Institute of International Education, New York City (13, c, 1945, pp. 147-150).

Point 11 in the post-war planning report concerned Cottey College and is mentioned here only because it refers to scholarships for foreign students to attend Cottey, and suggests that state chapters consider providing the scholarships. This, too, was part of the total development of P.E.O.'s foreign scholarship program, oriented as it was in the beginning, within the P.E.O. Educational Fund.

The report of the Post-war Planning Committee was filed with the recording secretary to be printed in the Proceedings, and suggestions contained in it were referred to the executive board of Supreme Chapter for consideration.

Points 1, 2 and 3 were adopted as goals of study and promotion by the next Educational Fund Board of Trustees (1945-1947). The following resume is from Mrs. Ruth Reed Stewart's report as chairman of the board. The board was "heartily in favor of the third proposal" but met difficulty in its implementation.

There were two classes of foreign students to whom loans might be made: those who plan to return to their native country, and those refugee students who plan to remain in Canada or the United States. The Institute of International Education advised only scholarships for the first group because of difficulties in collection and currency restrictions.

> Although the Educational Fund is, by its Establishing Act, for loans only, the board explored ideas on scholarships, and passed on its suggestions to the Peace Participation Committee to which the subject was referred by the executive board (13, a, 1947, p. 88).

With those suggestions and directives the evolvement or development of P.E.O. scholarships for foreign students passed from the P.E.O. Educational Fund, equipped to handle loans only, and for a time developed under leadership from both the Peace Participation Committee and the Post-war Work chairman.

In May, 1949, the executive board made available $3,000.00 from the Victory Fund and two foreign students were brought to the United States on scholarships in the fall of 1949 (see Chapter 19).

Three loans were made from the Educational Fund to young women of foreign birth during the 1945-1947 biennium:

> 1. Ying Wei-lin, Grace Ing to you, of Shanghai, sponsored by Chapter CI, Pasadena, [California], received her passport through their radiogram giving assurance of aid. She is in her second year...at Columbia University, [1947] having received her M.A. degree there in June, now working for her Ph.D. When she returns to China as an educational administrator, she will carry warm memories of the love of California P.E.O.'s.
> 2. Stasha Furlan of Yugoslavia, sponsored by Chapter C, New York City, of a cultured family uprooted by the tides of war, has found haven and an opportunity to complete her undergraduate work at Barnard. ...She plans to become naturalized.
> 3. Harriet Suzuki, sponsored by Chapter A, Territory of Hawaii. Island-born, of Japanese ancestry, a family of proved loyalty during the war, Miss Suzuki is an assistant supervisor in a government teacher training center. She is now [1947] to have a year's study at New York University (13, a, 1947, p. 88).

At present, (1968) loans cannot be granted from the P.E.O. Educational Fund to students from foreign countries. They must be citizens of the United States or Canada, or living in one of those countries on a permanent visa.

During the war years and post-war years when requests for loans were at a low level, the Educational Fund accumulated a surplus and investments were made in government bonds. A recommendation was submitted to the 1947 convention of Supreme Chapter to borrow from the Educational Fund, with interest at 3% (the amount of interest paid by loan girls in 1947), to help finance the proposed building program at Cottey College. Permission was granted and financing for Reeves Hall, a new heating plant, and some needed alterations was completed.

1957

Total, Educational Loan Fund	$902,063.75
Total, Endowment Fund	26,310.79
Total, P.E.O. Educational Fund	$928,374.54

By the fiftieth anniversary of the P.E.O. Educational Fund, 1957, 11,663 girls had been granted loans amounting to $5,146,830.77.

As anticipated, applications for loans increased gradually after the war. From a low of 141 loans granted during the 1943-1945 biennium, there was an increase to 827 loans granted in 1955-1957.

Many data in the Educational Department remain static when once established, but because of the many loan-girl files in process at all times, others change by the minute. Miss Margaret L. Mohler, executive secretary, stated in her report to the 1957 convention of Supreme Chapter: "The work of the Educational Fund occupies the entire working day of three stenographers, one part-time student typist, half the time of a bookkeeper and a third of the attention of the executive secretary. This staff is insufficient for the volume we are handling of loans applied for, granted, issued and being collected."

1967

Total, Educational Loan Fund	$1,201,608
Total, Endowment Fund	26,431
Total, P.E.O. Educational Fund	$1,228,039

Because the Educational Fund is a revolving loan fund it has been possible, in the sixty years of its existence, to loan $7,742,252.70 to 15,062 young women.

The Educational Fund was affected by two unusual events during the early 1960's. The first was the move in August, 1960, from Mount Pleasant, Iowa, to the new executive office building in Des Moines.

Summer is a busy time in the Educational Department. "A great effort was made to carry on the work...with as little interruption as possible. The Department continued in Mount Pleasant until the day before the last trucks arrived, and was reopened in Des Moines the day after the trucks unloaded" (13, c, 1961, p. 77).

The second event of significance was suspension of loans from the Educational Fund for a time, effective in September, 1962. It was only the second time in the history of the P.E.O. Educational Fund that loans were suspended. The other period was in 1936-1937, when requests from seniors only could be considered. The action in 1962 became necessary after 777 new loans, granted during the first 13 months of the biennium, depleted available funds. Over a nine-month period, only a limited number of additional, emergency, or senior student loans could be granted by the trustees. Despite this, 967 new loans were granted during the biennium. As soon as the need for funds was made known to the membership, gifts poured into the fund. $103,245.71 by the end of the fiscal year, August, 1963.

If the dedicated trustees of the Educational Fund, who work with facts and figures, write and distribute program material, and work with the loan girls and their files, could write the closing paragraph of this chapter it might read something like this:

We wish we could share with each P.E.O. the heart-warming history of our loan fund girls. They are representative of a cross-section of young women in the United States and Canada, each striving to achieve the goal of her aspirations and assume the responsibilities of accomplishing it. Some are exceptional students, the majority are average or above, a few are below average. A small percent are P.E.O. members or have P.E.O. relatives.

Teaching leads the professions for which they strive. Next nursing and related areas of medical technology, followed by the many other professions in which women serve. We have faith in the girls. They develop from shy freshmen into mature, competent, well-trained, self-supporting young women and homemakers whose lives have been enriched manyfold by education. We take no credit for their development but cherish the privilege of P.E.O. to have helped make possible their accomplishment through financial assistance, and we rejoice with them as they carefully tuck away an important slip of paper on which is written, "Paid in full."

16 Executive Office

The P.E.O. Executive Office is far more than a building in Des Moines, Iowa. It involves people and processes by which executive directives are executed. It did not come into being as an efficient vehicle for transacting business. Rather, it evolved gradually from the day P.E.O. was founded, dependent at all times on the growth and needs of the organization.

In the beginning only Chapter A was interested in the business of P.E.O. Rules for ritualistic and business procedures were made and executed, first by the seven founders, later by the founders and other early initiates. Supplies were almost nonexistent: a notebook for the recording secretary and one in which the treasurer could record fines, assessments, and payments for pins. As new chapters were organized, Chapter A supplied each with a notebook, usually referred to as "The Book," in which was written the constitution, bylaws, and simple ceremonies.

During the Grand Chapter era, 1883-1893, the officers made and executed directives and handled the few supplies. Supplies consisted mainly of the "The Book," the P.E.O. pins, a catalogue of members' names dispensed through the treasurer of Grand Chapter, a funeral ritual, dimit cards, and handwritten minutes of conventions prepared by the recording secretary and mailed to each chapter.

It was no small task to prepare handwritten minutes of conventions for all chapters: six in 1883, 67 in 1893. The convention of 1886 voted to buy a typewriter, but it was not purchased. The first mention of typewritten material being used in P.E.O. was in 1893 when Alice Babb's son, Max, offered to type the proposed revision of the constitution and bylaws adopted that year.

The first known ad for supplies appeared in the second number of The P.E.O. Record, February, 1889. It read: "Dimit cards for sale by the Record @ 30 cents per dozen."

Herein lie the simple beginnings of the Executive Office, the P.E.O. Supply Department, and the position of executive secretary.

In the 1888 convention of Grand Chapter a letter from Chapter E, Washington, D.C., was read, suggesting that national headquarters of P.E.O. be established there. The matter was "laid on the table" since P.E.O. was not yet ready for such a move. At the Iowa Grand Chapter Convention in 1903 a letter was read from Chapter O, Missouri "...proposing a plan for P.E.O.'s building a separate structure at the Saint Louis Exposition" (10, June 1903, p. 139). At the convention of Missouri Grand Chapter "...the subject of the Exposition was brought up again in a motion by Mrs. Lukens that P.E.O.'s have a building there. Mrs. Hapeman told of the need P.E.O. has of a permanent building to hold the thousand histories when printed" (10, June, 1903, p. 165). Suggestions were made that a building for exhibits at the Exposition could be used later for P.E.O. headquarters. The building was not built. However, a P.E.O. Day was held, June 18, 1904, at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in Saint Louis, and surplus funds formed the nucleus for the P.E.O. Educational Fund.

Until 1911 business of P.E.O., as directed by convention delegations, continued to be administered by members of the executive board and special committees. That included purchase and handling of supplies by the treasurer of Supreme Chapter, and administrative duties relative to the Educational Fund established in 1907.

Growth of P.E.O. was rapid during the early twentieth century, increasing the need for service to chapters and individual P.E.O.'s. Stocks of supplies increased and piled up in the home of the current treasurer, and with the election of each new treasurer supplies had to be transported to another location.

The regular work of the treasurer, as well as handling supplies, increased in proportion to the growth in P.E.O. membership. Eventually it became apparent that the work of the treasurer must be divided. Mrs. Carrie M. Peterson, who presided at the 1909 convention in Mount Pleasant, recommended that supplies be handled by the second vice president. That year supplies were transported from the home of Mrs. Effie L. Fortune in Bloomfield, Iowa, to that of Mrs. Anna B. Grimes in Hutchinson, Kansas. During the 1909-1911 biennium, supplies took up much space in the Grimes home and overflowed into the garage. The need for an adequate, central location was clearly indicated.

Mrs. Winona E. Reeves, president of Supreme Chapter, recommended the appointment of a custodian of supplies who would serve as an additional member of the executive board. The recommendation was adopted and the custodian was voted a salary of $75 a year. The salary increased gradually during the following six years the office existed until, in 1917, it reached the peak of $420 annually.

The first appointee was Mrs. Addie M. Janes of Chicago, Illinois, who used her home as an office. Late in the biennium she resigned because of illness and Mrs. Nancy A. Olds of Chicago was appointed in her place. Mrs. Olds continued to serve through the 1917-1919 biennium.

A study of business procedures in the various departments of P.E.O. was made in 1915-1917 by Mrs. Helen M. Drake, president of Supreme Chapter, and other members of the executive board. The need for an executive office was mentioned often during the biennium: an office that would bring together the work of the various departments under a trained executive, and would become the corporate headquarters of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

When convention met in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1917, Mrs. Drake was ill throughout the convention and the first vice president, Miss Margaret Durward, presided. In her convention report Mrs. Drake recommended that a complete revision of the constitution and bylaws be made and presented to the 1919 convention scheduled to meet in Denver for the golden jubilee of P.E.O. Convention approved the recommendation and a committee on revision was appointed. Changes were made in committee appointments, the following three members completing the work: Miss Ida B. Johnson, past president, Nebraska State Chapter; Mrs. Floy J. Stevens, past president, Missouri State Chapter; and Mrs. Grace R. Parks, past president, Illinois State Chapter and Supreme Chapter. Miss Durward and Mrs. Drake served as advisors.

The Executive Office in Chicago

The revision provided for the establishment of an executive office, a Supply Department, and the office of executive secretary, thus bringing together work of various departments under a trained and paid executive. How this was accomplished was reported by Mrs. Helen D. Townsend, president of Supreme Chapter, in her president's report to the 1921 convention:

> Much of the work of the biennium has been the result of legislation enacted at the convention in 1919. . . . An early duty was to appoint from the Supreme Board, the chairman of each of the three Boards of Trustees, and to appoint a Board of Trustees for the Supply Department. I appointed Mrs. Beatty, [Los Angeles, California] chairman of the Educational Fund; Mrs. Hughes, [Omaha, Nebraska] chairman of the Board of Publications; and Mrs. Weber [Waynoka, Oklahoma] chairman of the Supply Board. I named Mrs. Olds of Illinois and Mrs. Donnell of Minnesota as the members of the Supply Board; Mrs. Stella Porter of Iowa, as Trustee of the Educational Fund; and Mrs. Alice Scott of Kansas to the Board of Publications. Owing to ill health, Mrs. Donnell resigned, and I appointed Mrs. Carrie M. Evans of Minnesota to fill her place.
>
> After a trial of the new plan of naming the chairman of each of these boards from the members of the executive board, it seems better to

> have the work down entirely outside of the board, and I am bringing an amendment to the constitution to that effect....
>
> The new constitution provides for the establishment of a central business office and a paid executive secretary, who is to be custodian of supplies and treasurer of the Educational Fund.
>
> The increase in dues would not begin until March 1, 1920, and as Mrs. Olds and Mrs. Hughes announced themselves willing to continue the work they were already doing, it was thought best not to establish the office until after March 1, 1920. But we found such difficulty in securing a suitable person to fill the office of executive secretary that we were not ready to open the office on March 1.
>
> It had been our idea to have someone familiar with P.E.O. laws and papers, as well as a trained business woman. Such women as we wanted could command a higher salary than we felt able to pay (10, Dec. 1921, p. 4).

Then it was that Mrs. Townsend remembered a loyal member of her own Chapter H, Albia, Iowa, whose ability, accuracy, and trustworthiness had been proved in Red Cross work, though she had had little technical business training. She was employed in March, and Chicago was chosen as the location for the office.

On June 30, 1920, the first P.E.O. Executive Office was officially opened in the Stevens building in Chicago, and Miss Ada Baysoar assumed the duties of her office as P.E.O.'s first executive secretary. The office more than paid for itself during the first biennium.

After Mrs. Bertha Clark Hughes of Omaha, Nebraska, assumed the presidency of Supreme Chapter in October, 1921, it was thought advisable to transfer the executive office from Chicago to Omaha, where Mrs. Hughes might supervise the preparation of the ritual as revised at the convention in 1921. The move was made January 1, 1922, at which time the resignation of Miss Baysoar became effective.

The new office was opened in the Peters Trust Building in Omaha and Mrs. Lulah T. Andrews of Chapter K, Lincoln, Nebraska, was appointed the second executive secretary of P.E.O.

Mrs. Andrews was a woman of broad business training and experience. She served Nebraska State Chapter as organizer and as first vice president, resigning because of the illness of her husband. During World War I she did secretarial and canteen work for various agencies both abroad and in the United States. Later she served as president of the Nebraska Federation of Business and Professional Women and was employed in secretarial work. Her ability and interest in P.E.O. contributed greatly to the development of business procedures during the six years the executive office remained in Omaha.

It was necessary for Mrs. Hughes to appoint two new members to the Supply Board of Trustees, Miss Carrie M. Evans, a teacher and the first president of Minnesota State Chapter, being the only one to continue through the 1921-1923 biennium. Miss Rose M. Owens, Omaha, Nebraska and Miss Katherine Mann, Emmett, Idaho, were appointed, Miss Owens as chairman. Both proved to be excellent appointees.

Miss Owens, a past president of Nebraska State Chapter, did secretarial work at various locations, was for several years a bank accountant and auditor, and later was deputy county clerk and clerk of the district court. Her residence in Omaha made it possible for her to work closely with the executive secretary. P.E.O. must always be indebted to Miss Owens for the magnificent work she did in helping to coordinate and organize the work of the executive office and in setting up an entirely new set of double-entry books, beginning January 2, 1922.

Her report to the 1923 convention of Supreme Chapter, as recorded in the printed book of proceedings, pages 58 to 62, gives some idea of the scope of the work done by the board of trustees.

Miss Katherine Mann was also a business woman. At the time of her appointment she was manager of the Gem City Abstract Company, Emmett, Idaho. She was also a past president of Idaho State Chapter. Miss Mann became corresponding secretary of Supreme Chapter in 1923 and later served as executive secretary for many years.

Rose M. Owens

The office of membership secretary was in existence during the 1921-1923 biennium, thus dividing the work of the corresponding secretary. However, the large membership books contained the only complete records of the sisterhood, so the convention of 1923 voted to place them in the executive office. This move brought one more department under the direction of the executive secretary.

P.E.O. grew rapidly during the six years the executive office was in Omaha, thus increasing the work in all departments. More and more loans were processed for the Educational Fund, proportionately increasing the work of the executive secretary as treasurer of the fund. The establishment of the executive office under the direction of the executive secretary was more than justified.

The Executive Office in Mount Pleasant

Another project was being considered in the early 1920's: a memorial to the founders. The history of the P.E.O. Memorial Library is recorded in the following chapter, but its completion in 1927 greatly affected the development of the executive office.

Executive Office in P.E.O.
Memorial Library, Mount Pleasant

When plans for the Library began to evolve, Mrs. Dell Phillips Glazier, a member of the Memorial Committee, was quick to see the advantage of including a suite of rooms for the executive office. Plans for the building were completed on that basis. Office space on the second floor was made available and was occupied the fall of 1927.

Dedication of the P.E.O. Memorial Library was set for September 27, 1927. It was expected that the executive office would be moved to the new building by that time. Mrs. Lulah T. Andrews, executive secretary, describes the move to Mount Pleasant:

> I had assisted in moving the office to Omaha January 1, 1922, and the supervision of this move to Mt. Pleasant impressed me with the increase, in nearly six years, in the volume of our possessions and our business. We reached Mt. Pleasant, September 23rd to find our beautiful Memorial Library Building almost ready, but because of a delay in heat installation Mrs. Scott authorized the opening of temporary headquarters in two comfortable rooms in the Brazelton Hotel, and while it is not 'business as usual,' for our supplies cannot be unpacked for some days, we are taking care of mail and of the Educational Fund demands in quite the usual way.... Our new offices are in every way delightful and commodious. The casement windows open toward the beautiful campus of Iowa Wesleyan (13 c, 1927, p. 57).

Soon after the convention in Oklahoma City, October 4 to 7, 1927, the move into the new executive offices was completed.

Mrs. Andrews served the first year of the 1927-1929 biennium then resigned to accept a challenging position on the Housing Committee of the United States Government. Miss Katherine Mann, then corresponding secretary of Supreme Chapter, was appointed executive secretary. Fortunately, Miss Mann had been a member of the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Supply Department during the previous biennium and was familiar with the work of the executive office. Miss Mann continued in that capacity until ill health forced her to resign in January, 1941.

Space will not permit the enumeration of duties efficiently performed in the executive office at any specific time, but membership figures from 1927 to 1967 give some idea of the tremendous growth of P.E.O. and the subsequent increase in the duties and service of executive secretaries. On March 1, 1927, there were 41,390 active members in 1,308 chapters. On March 1, 1967, there were 162,767 active members in 4,618 chapters.

Mrs. Hazel E. Hine, a member of the faculty at Cottey College, was appointed executive secretary of P.E.O. in January, 1941. Because of her commitments at Cottey, she did not assume the duties of executive secretary until July. Mrs. Martha Ashcroft, a member of the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Supply Department, served as acting executive secretary during the interim.

Mrs. Hine possessed a background of educational and business experience. She had held positions in Ohio, New York, Florida and Missouri. She had attended Miami University and Columbia University, had a bachelor's degree from the University of Akron, an M.A. degree from New York University, and had studied at Oxford University in England. She was well prepared to conduct the business of the executive office and made a valuable contribution to P.E.O. during the nine years she remained in the office.

Again Mrs. Ashcroft assumed the temporary duties of executive secretary until the position could be filled.

Miss Margaret L. Mohler, trained in business and finance, was appointed executive secretary of the P.E.O. Sisterhood April 1, 1950, while the executive office was still located in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

P.E.O. was expanding rapidly. Membership had more than doubled from 1927, when the executive office in the P.E.O. Memorial Library was first occupied, to 1950. Expansion continued at the same rapid pace for another five years when the need for more expandable space and trained personnel became acute. The 1955 convention of Supreme Chapter provided for a committee to study the need for expansion. The convention of 1957 authorized the executive board to acquire property in a centrally located city in Iowa, where the executive office might be established in its own building, thus bringing together all departments of P.E.O., and where adequate P.E.O. personnel might be available, the building, then, to become the corporate headquarters of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

The international executive office building of P.E.O. built at 3700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, was dedicated September 10, 1960. Several divisions of P.E.O. became a part of the new office that were not in Mount Pleasant—the editorial and circulation work of The P.E.O. Record; the work of treasurer of Supreme Chapter, both of which had been carried on in the homes of the editor and treasurer;

P.E.O. Executive Office in Des Moines

and in 1963, the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund. A colonial sign, placed on the lawn, designates the building as the P.E.O. Executive Office.

3700
P.E.O.
EXECUTIVE
OFFICE

Miss Mohler has served continuously as executive secretary from the time of her appointment April 1, 1950, to the present (1968). She has contributed much of value as the work of the executive office expanded from a comparatively small operation in 1950 to a very large one operating in the present executive office in Des Moines. Increase in membership requires increased service in other departments as well.

The responsibilities of the executive secretary continue to increase as P.E.O. grows in numbers and interests. It is a position requiring creative ideas, knowledge and experience in the techniques of business and financial management, and of personnel management.

Margaret Louise Mohler

Margaret Louise Mohler, daughter of Harvey Alfred and Kittie Sheffer Mohler, was born in Iowa, but was reared and lived most of her early life in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

She was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter BP, Saint Joseph, in 1916, while still a student in high school. Her mother, who was initiated in 1902 by Chapter C of Fairfield, Iowa, assembled the charter list for Chapter BP in 1912. Margaret is still a member of Chapter BP, and has served the chapter as president two different times.

Margaret Louise Mohler

One brother, Harry, died in 1946. One sister, Florence, is also a member of Chapter BP, and since 1960 has been supervisor of the P.E.O. Educational Fund Department of the executive office.

Miss Mohler was appointed executive secretary April 1, 1950, while the executive office was located in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She served as a member of the building committee for the new executive office in Des Moines, and was responsible for moving the furniture, equipment, and supplies of the office from Mount Pleasant to Des Moines in August, 1960, and for employing and training the new office staff personnel.

Since 1957 she has served as assistant to the president for conventions of Supreme Chapter, responsible for the physical planning and functioning of the conventions.

She served as treasurer of Supreme Chapter from 1960 to 1963.

Miss Mohler is a university major in accounting. Her prior business experience includes secretary to the president of a bank in Saint Joseph, and executive assistant and business manager of Miss Hickey's School for Secretaries in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Other organization activities include the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in which she served as a member of the executive board 1932-1940, and as president 1936-1938; and the National Federation of Business and Professional

Women's Clubs, serving as a member of the board of directors 1936-1938.

While residing in Saint Joseph she served a number of years on the committee for counseling the work of the Business Girls' Department, Saint Joseph Young Women's Christian Association; and served as a member of the board of directors of the Family and Children's Bureau. She was a member of the first board of directors, Women's Division, of the Saint Joseph Chamber of Commerce, serving as president 1941-1942.

Miss Mohler is listed in Who's Who in America, and Who's Who of American Women. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

17 Memorial Library

A memorial to the founders of P.E.O. was mentioned vaguely as early as the Grand Chapter era, 1883-1893, and usually in connection with some worthy project. No specific plan was proposed until 1896 when Chapter S, the college chapter, proposed that P.E.O. honor its founders with a memorial building on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan University to house the Iowa Conservatory of Music and a suite of rooms for P.E.O. (see Chapter 12).

The proposal was tabled by the 1897 convention to allow time for full consideration. In 1899 the proposed recommendation was not brought before convention primarily because Dr. Charles L. Stafford had resigned as president of Iowa Wesleyan University. Dr. Stafford was the husband of Mary Allen Stafford, a P.E.O. founder. He had heartily supported the plan, but had resigned in June, 1899, a few months before the plan was to have been presented to the 1899 convention of Supreme Grand Chapter. Without his support the plan seemed unlikely to pass, so the recommendation was withdrawn.

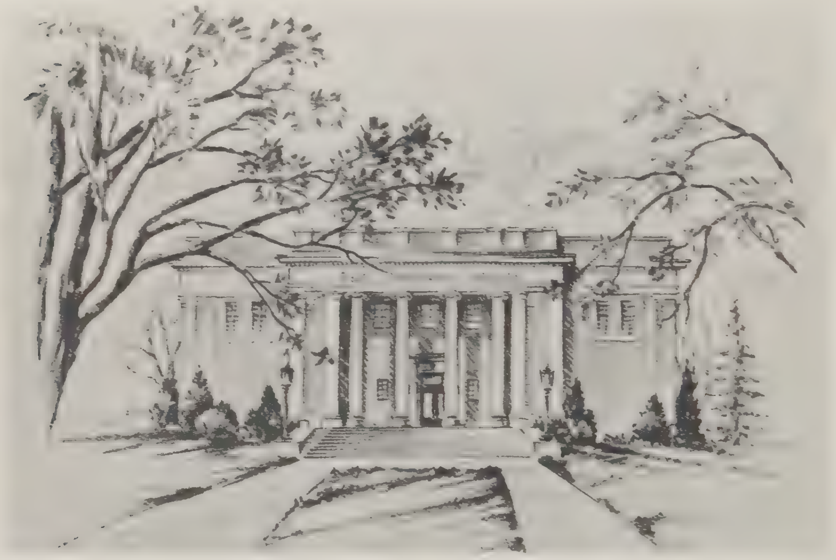
Periodically a memorial honoring the founders was mentioned but another quarter of a century passed before a Memorial Committee was appointed and active plans materialized. P.E.O. was then concerned with bylaw revision, establishment of the executive office, and development of the enlarged Educational Fund.

In 1921 Miss Martha McClure, a member of Chapter Original A in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, attended an educational conference in Des Moines, Iowa, where eight states were represented. According to Miss McClure:

> Some P.E.O.'s chanced to meet and fell to talking of P.E.O. aims and ideals and the great future awaiting the Educational Fund, which is the paramount issue of the Sisterhood at present.
>
> The writer suggested that since the organization had grown into such vast proportions and had allied itself permanently—let us hope—with

> educational problems, it seemed a fitting time to project plans for a suitable memorial to honor the birthplace of P.E.O. Nothing could be more appropriate to the ideals of the Sisterhood than a memorial library (6, c, p. 8).

The small group was enthusiastic. Surely P.E.O. had found the perfect solution for a memorial. A beautiful building of classic design on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan would honor the founders and the birthplace of P.E.O. as well, and it would be an educational project of the highest order.



P.E.O. Memorial Library, Mount Pleasant, 1964

In the September, 1921, issue of The P.E.O. Record, a feature article by Miss McClure explained the suggestion further under the title, A P.E.O. Vision.

It was Mrs. Dell Phillips Glazier of Chapter BS, Fort Madison, Iowa, who added the practical suggestion that the building might also house the general business offices of P.E.O.

The proposal was discussed in the convention of Supreme Chapter in Kansas City, October 4 to 7, 1921. Convention approved a motion by Mrs. Glazier to refer the matter of a memorial library to local chapters for consideration, and provided for the appointment of a committee of three to further the work of the project and report to the 1923 convention. Committee appointments by Mrs. Townsend were: Mrs. Dell P. Glazier, Fort Madison, Iowa, chairman; Miss Ellen Ball, Seattle, Washington; and Mrs. Clara R. Waterhouse, Fremont, Nebraska.

The committee assembled information and placed it in the hands of local chapters by means of letters and articles in The P.E.O. Record. Both Alice Bird Babb and Franc Roads Elliott wrote articles for The P.E.O. Record endorsing the idea. Much interest was manifested in the project, but when Mrs. Glazier presented the plan to the convention in Seattle in 1923, some members raised parliamentary questions. Blueprints and cost estimates were not available and the vote was unfavorable. The issue was kept alive when Mrs. Mary Allen Stafford graciously moved that the committee be continued for another biennium, and suggested that the building might be built with love gifts.

Two more years of discussion followed. A memorial chairman was appointed in each state, provincial, and district chapter, and Mrs. Vina Ives Bowden, president of Supreme Chapter, arranged for the proposition to be discussed in each state chapter convention. The 1925 convention of Supreme Chapter was in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 29 to October 2. When Mrs. Glazier moved that The P.E.O. Sisterhood erect a memorial library on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan College, the motion was seconded from many parts of the house and carried by a unanimous vote. A plan was outlined to raise $100,000 for the proposed building.

When information reached Mount Pleasant, the old chapel bell rang out the good news and spirits ran high. It was a great day for Iowa Wesleyan and for all P.E.O.'s.

The P.E.O. Memorial Library was planned, built and dedicated during the 1925-1927 biennium. The newly elected president of Supreme Chapter, Mrs. Alice H. Scott, with the endorsement of other members of the executive board, appointed the following members to the Building Committee: Miss Martha McClure, chairman; Mrs. Harriet M. Amsden; and Mrs. Vina Ives Bowden. Russell Weir, E. E. Phelps, and R. K. Crane, members of the board of trustees of Iowa Wesleyan College, were appointed to work with the Building Committee.

After several months Miss McClure resigned. Mrs. Lucy Beyer Engelbeck was appointed to the committee and Mrs. Bowden was named chairman. Mrs. Scott also appointed a Finance Committee: Mrs. Helen M. Drake, Mrs. Frankie G. Hunter, and Mrs. Alice S. Miller. Mrs. Florence McKibbin, the college librarian, counseled with the various committees. Lorenze Schmidt of Wichita, Kansas, was chosen as the architect.

It was with love and a deep sense of appreciation that P.E.O. launched the building of Memorial Library to honor its founders. Two of the founders, Alice Bird Babb and Mary Allen Stafford, were living through the first year of the 1925-1927 biennium, and must have known moments of satisfaction that such a beautiful and useful project was to become a reality.

That neither founder lived to see the building completed was one of the sad facts of P.E.O. history. Mrs. Babb, who had been ill for many months, died November 21, 1926.

Mrs. Stafford, as the only living founder, turned the first spade of earth in the ground-breaking ceremony, Tuesday, January 11, 1927. She also participated in the ceremony for laying the cornerstone, April 25. Then after a short illness, Mrs. Stafford died on August 10, 1927.

Memorial Library Ceremonies

Four dignified and appropriate ceremonies were planned for the P.E.O. Memorial Library: Ground Breaking Ceremony, January 11, 1927; Corner Stone Ceremony, April 25, 1927; Dedication Ceremony, November 27, 1927; Unveiling of Founders' Portraits, September 23, 1929.

The well-planned programs and the complete script for the excellently written ceremonies are recorded in Volume II of The Story of P.E.O., printed in 1936, pages 11 to 23. They were prepared by Mrs. Winona E. Reeves, representing the Sisterhood, and Mr. Carl S. Williams, representing the board of trustees of Iowa Wesleyan College.

Dedication of the P.E.O. Memorial Library took the form of two Ceremonies. The first one was in Memorial Hall at ten o'clock in the morning. It was described by Mrs. Reeves as being "an intimate ceremony for P.E.O.'s only." The two daughters-in-law of Mary Allen

Memorial Library Ceremonies, 1927

Mary Allen Stafford breaking ground for Memorial Library

Stafford, Mrs. Clarence A. Stafford and Mrs. Ralph Stafford, withdrew the yellow and white ribbons that had barred the archway leading into Memorial Hall, the large central room where the portraits were hung two years later. Mrs. Alice Babb Ewing, daughter of Alice Bird Babb, lighted the fire on the hearth in the parlor, and the seven-branch torchiers on either side of the fireplace. The president, Mrs. Scott, presided.

At the close of the program, P.E.O.'s visited the graves of the founders, placing a wreath on each:

> In Forest Home Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, Mrs. Lulu Corkhill Williams placed a wreath on Mrs. Stafford's grave and Miss Ione Ambler placed a wreath on Mrs. Babb's grave. The prayer was by Mrs. Scott, and Dr. W. J. Todd gave the benediction. At the "Old Cemetery," a wreath was placed on Ella Stewart's grave by Elizabeth Oglivie Croft and prayer was offered by May Brooks Snider. To honor Mrs. Franc Roads Elliott, whose ashes were scattered on a wooded island in Oakwoods Cemetery, Chicago, a wreath was laid on her mother's grave by Mrs. Elliott's sister, Leona Roads Bowman. The prayer was offered by Mrs. Ola B. Miller and the benediction by Dr. Todd. At the same time a similar service was conducted in Newton, Iowa, at the grave of Alice Virginia Coffin; in Cleveland, Ohio, at the grave of Suela Pearson Penfield; in Pella, Iowa, at the grave of Hattie Briggs Bousquet (6, c, p. 19).

That afternoon formal dedication of the Memorial Library was in the college auditorium, its facilities being necessary to accommodate the hundreds of P.E.O.'s and their friends who attended.

Bronze Tablet

The founders' own chapter, Original A, provided and had placed in the main entrance to the library a bronze tablet listing each of the seven founders of P.E.O. The presentation ceremony was October 5, 1928.

Committee of One

Before the Memorial Library was finished, thought was given to furnishing the P.E.O. rooms on the second floor. The Building Committee, with approval from Mrs. Scott, president of Supreme Chapter, chose floor coverings and draperies before the dedication, which could be paid for from the building fund. As the building fund was not sufficient to cover the furnishings of the rooms, it was suggested this could be accomplished by gifts from chapters or individuals in honor of the founders or of other P.E.O.'s.

Such a project needed supervision. Consequently, Mrs. Ola B. Miller appointed Mrs. Harriett M. Amsden of Chapter BC, Decatur, Illinois, as a Committee of One to approve all furnishings. Beautiful chandeliers, furniture, and objects d'art were chosen and suggestions made to prospective donors when needed. Gifts were many, resulting in a beautifully appointed suite of rooms.

Interior View, P.E.O. Memorial Hall, 1967

Six P.E.O.'s held appointments as the committee of one: Mrs. Amsden, 1929-1934; Mrs. Mabel Frisbee, 1934-May, 1937; Mrs. Bessie R. Raney, May, 1937 to October 1937, to finish the term of Mrs. Frisbee; Mrs. Gertrude C. Sebern, 1937-1949; Mrs. Grace Linder, 1949-1963; and Mrs. Jean S. Megorden, 1962-1963, to finish the term of Mrs. Linder who was appointed to the Refurbishing Committee. The 1963 convention set up a rotating committee of three that functioned until the Buildings Committee was set up by the 1967 convention.

Founders' Portraits

When plans were drawn for the Memorial Library, portraits of the founders were discussed, and wall space arranged in Memorial Hall.

Mrs. Amsden, the Committee of One on furnishings for the P.E.O. rooms, wrote or talked to hundreds of P.E.O.'s regarding gifts of furnishings. Portraits of the founders were considered along with other furnishings. Several state chapters decided to channel their gift money to a portrait fund and active plans for painting the portraits were set in motion.

The Portrait Committee, Lulu Corkhill Williams, Harriet Magill Amsden, May Brooks Snider, Mabel Davenport Doud, and Winona Evans Reeves, selected the photographs to be reproduced; chose the artist, Marion Dunlap Harper; and passed on countless details relevant to such an undertaking.

Convention of Supreme Chapter met in Chicago September 17 to 20, 1929. The portraits were displayed there on the first afternoon of convention. An open meeting was held and relatives of the founders were invited to participate. The portraits were then transferred to Mount Pleasant and hung in Memorial Hall for the unveiling ceremonies Monday, September 23, 1929, at 2 p.m.

A special train that left Chicago that morning carried hundreds of P.E.O.'s to Mount Pleasant. B.I.L.'s took many on a tour of the city, and officers of Chapter Original A formed a reception committee in the library.

Presentations to the P.E.O. Memorial Library were made as follows:

Mrs. Nell Romney, representing Iowa State Chapter, presented the portrait of Mary Allen Stafford, which was unveiled by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Ralph Stafford.

Mrs. Regina Bird Twining, representing California State Chapter, presented the portrait of her sister, Alice Bird Babb, which was unveiled by her daughter, Alice Babb Ewing.

Mrs. Lulah T. Andrews, representing Nebraska State Chapter, presented the portrait of Franc Roads Elliott, which was unveiled by Lulu Corkill Williams, an initiate of 1869.

Mrs. Ida Stilwell, representing Florida State Chapter, presented the portrait of Alice Virginia Coffin, which was unveiled by her niece, Blanche Alice Skiff Ross.

Mrs. Lottie B. Duckworth, representing Missouri State Chapter, presented the portrait of Suela Pearson Penfield, which was unveiled by Ione Ambler, an initiate of 1869.

Mrs. Katherine Stelle, representing the state chapters of Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Wyoming, presented the portriat of Ella Stewart, which was unveiled by Julia Baldwin McKibbin.

Mrs. Elizabeth McClelland Palmer, representing chapters in subordinate territory, presented the portrait of Hattie Briggs Bousquet, which was unveiled by Hattie's niece, Henrietta Bousquet

Egan. The subordinate chapters represented were: A and B, Massachusetts; A, New Jersey; A, B, C, and D, Pennsylvania; A and B, Maryland; A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H, District of Columbia; A, Virginia; A, B, and C, West Virginia; A, Manitoba; A, Louisiana; A, B, C, and D, Nevada; B, C, D, and F, Arizona; A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, Utah.

The portraits were accepted by Mrs. Edith Markham Wallace, the newly elected president of Supreme Chapter.

Hostesses in the Memorial Rooms

Mrs. May Brooks Snider was the first hostess in the P.E.O. memorial rooms. She was an excellent choice because of her P.E.O. background. She was a past president of Iowa State Chapter and had grown up with P.E.O. She was initiated into Chapter A in 1875 and knew all of the founders well for they were in and out of the Brooks home with the older sister Belle who was initiated in the spring of 1869. Another sister Alice, who married a brother of Hattie Briggs, became a P.E.O. in Nebraska. She was the first president of Nebraska Grand Chapter and a president of Supreme Grand Chapter. Mrs. Snider was a delightful person to know and a dedicated P.E.O. A tour of the memorial rooms under her direction would have been a memorable one.

After Mrs. Snider's resignation in 1941, Miss Ruth Willits assumed the duties of hostess. Her grandmother was a sister of Sarah Bird, mother of Alice Bird Babb. Miss Willits continued as hostess until 1949 then held other positions in the executive office until her death in 1966.

Mrs. Jessie Hyland was hostess from 1949 until 1952. Her cordial wecome awaited all guests during the vacation months. During other seasons of the year visitors were received in the memorial rooms by some member of the executive office staff.

Miss Erma I. Adams has been hostess in the memorial rooms since September, 1952. She has been a resident of the Sarah Porter Beckwith P.E.O. Home in Mount Pleasant since 1951.

Miss Adams was born in Illinois, but was reared and has lived most of her adult life in Iowa. She is a graduate nurse and until her retirement in 1951, worked in various areas of nursing: private nursing, county health work, and office assistant.

Busy as her life has been, she has found time for many activities outside the nursing profession: church, P.E.O., Eastern Star, Daughters of Veterans of Civil War, Alden Woman's Club, and G.A.R. activities. She sponsored youth work at the Alden Methodist Church from 1912 to 1945. She considers this and her hospital work with young mothers as the most rewarding of her activities.

She became a P.E.O. in 1930 as an initiate of Chapter DV, Iowa Falls, Iowa. Speaking of her present work as hostess in the P.E.O. Memorial rooms she said, "This new work that has come to me in later years has compensated for the lost feeling of retiring from loved associations. The delightful friendships and the so interesting guests are a daily joy."

18 Cottey College

Perhaps Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard presented P.E.O. with its greatest challenge when, in 1927, she placed her college within its keeping. For any woman to establish and develop a college in the late nineteenth century was a tremendous accomplishment. Then to give it, debt free, to a large organization of women was almost too fantastic an idea to be credible.

When Virginia Alice Cottey was a small child in Edina, Missouri, her father expressed the hope that she would one day become a teacher. She remembered that remark as her first inspiration for work in the educational field. Some years later she was inspired by the life and work of Mary Lyon, who founded Mount Holyoke College for Women in Massachusetts. Eventually Miss Cottey dreamed of the time when she might establish a similar college in her "own midwestern country." Hers was in no way a militant personality, but she believed, sincerely, that women as well as men should have the opportunity to develop their mental capacities.

Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard

Miss Cottey attended a convent school in Edina, spent a year at a school for girls at Newark, Missouri, then taught several years at the grade-school level. In 1875 she accepted a teaching position in Central College, Lexington, Missouri, where she taught for nine years. Having saved $3,000 and received the promise of financial help from her sisters, Dora and Mary, she went to Nevada, Missouri, during the Christmas holidays, 1883, to confer with civic leaders relative to locating her college in that city.

Miss Cottey was met at the railway station by Colonel Harry C. Moore, a merchant and civic leader. In his horsedrawn buggy they set out to find a location for her school. Miss Cottey chose a five-acre tract of land west of the city. Astonished at her choice Colonel Moore saw only a field of corn stubble; but Miss Cottey saw buildings and trees and grass, and many young women—her dream come true.

The town furnished the site for the school and Miss Cottey planned the first building, now the central core of Main Hall, and had it erected in 1884. The building, of sturdy red-brick construction, has withstood many alterations and has been enhanced by the addition of a third floor and several wings.

In the fall of 1884 Miss Cottey announced the opening of Vernon Seminary, as she chose to call her college, since Nevada, Missouri is in Vernon County. At last Miss Cottey was free to develop her own academic program, keeping in mind her two major purposes: religious training and discipline of the mind. In 1887 the school was chartered as Cottey College by the state of Missouri.

Cottey College grew and prospered from the beginning largely because of the personality and abilities of its founder. She stressed good academic programming through all grades as well as college, and administered her school with wisdom and thrift. Through the early years she enjoyed the help of her sisters Medora, Mary, and Kate Cottey and a niece, Miss Rose Cottey. All were excellent teachers and devoted to Cottey College.

In 1890 Miss Cottey married Mr. Samuel M. Stockard, a widower with three children. After his death, in 1896, Mrs. Stockard reared and educated the three children and many years later three grandchildren.

Mrs. Stockard remained president of Cottey College until 1921 when, at her request the trustees elected Mr. James C. Harmon president. During his administration two unusual events transpired: The college was offered as a gift to the Southwest Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and Neale Hall was built. President Harmon resigned in 1924, and Mrs. Stockard again assumed the presidency by election of the trustees.

A well organized and documented history of Cottey College, written by Dr. Orpha Stockard, Dean of Faculty, Professor of English, was published in 1961 in recognition of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the college. The First 75 years, as the book is called, is available at Cottey College. It records the struggles and accomplishments in the development of that institution of learning.

The history of Cottey College is an impelling one. It is the story of a valiant woman—a woman with a vision and the courage to make her vision a reality; it is the story of a woman who left the imprint of her vivid personality and staunch character upon hundreds of young women who attended her college; it is the story of a woman who planned for the future of her college in a most unique manner.

Mrs. Stockard, as most people spoke of her after her marriage in 1890, became a P.E.O. in 1926 by invitation of Chapter DW, Nevada, Missouri. Immediately she recognized in P.E.O. the same ideals and purposes to which she had devoted her life and stressed for her college. Being a practical woman, and no longer a young one, she pondered the problem of arranging for the continuity of her college when she was gone.

Struck by the significance of P.E.O.'s potential as a living endowment for her college, she wrote in 1927, to Mrs. Alice H. Scott, president of Supreme Chapter, explaining that she would like to give Cottey College to P.E.O. That was at the time Memorial Library was being built. Every effort was being made to have it completed and ready for dedication in the fall. Mrs. Scott did, however, send Mrs. Edith Prouty Pritchard, of Kansas City, a past president of Supreme Chapter, to investigate the proposition. Later Mrs. Scott sent Mrs. Hallie A. Newell, president of Missouri State Chapter, on the same mission. Both Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Newell reported favorably to Mrs. Scott and the matter was presented to the 1927 convention of Supreme Chapter.

A conservative estimate of the value of the buildings, campus, and equipment was $350,000. The estimate was endorsed by the accrediting committee of Missouri University.

The conditions of the gift as set forth by Mrs. Stockard, were simple:

> First. The P.E.O. shall endow the college with not less than $200,000. Plans for raising this fund may be made by the...convention as...wisdom may suggest, no time limit for its completion.
>
> Second. I may be permitted to remain president of the college for the next two years, if my health permits, but salary shall not exceed $2,000.
>
> Third. During the remainder of my life, after resigning from the presidency, I am to receive an annuity of $1,000 per year.
>
> Fourth. That I may be permitted to have board and room in the college as long as I live, if desired.
>
> Fifth. That the name of the college be Cottey College, owned and controlled by the P.E.O. Sisterhood.
>
> Sixth. My home, known as Stockard Hall, will, at my death, under my will, become the property of Cottey College. During my lifetime a reasonable rental is to be paid me for the rooms in this home that are used by the college for dormitory purposes (10, Nov. 1927, p. 9).

The 1927 convention of Supreme Chapter was held in Oklahoma City. On the second day of convention, Wednesday, October 5, Mrs. Stockard offered Cottey College as a gift to the P.E.O. Sisterhood. After making the offer she gave a brief history of the school and answered questions. Her answers were direct, definite, and concise. There was placed in the hands of convention members at that time the statement concerning the history of the school, its earning ability, and the financial statement. Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Newell reported their findings to the convention.

The recommendation as amended and carried on Thursday, Ocotber 6, 1927, was that the gift of [Cottey College by] Mrs. Stockard be accepted; [and] that the amount of endowment [$200,000] be raised entirely from the surplus in general fund (13, c, pp. 82-83). A vote of thanks was extended as convention stood to honor a great woman, Mrs. Stockard. So P.E.O. accepted the gift and the challenge and Cottey College became a P.E.O. educational project.

In recognition of Mrs. Stockards' accomplishments, Iowa Wesleyan College granted her the honorary degree of LL.D in June, 1930.

Mrs. Stockard's request to remain as president of Cottey College for two years, after the change in ownership, was a wise one. It allowed her time to continue her reorganization of the academic program with a view to future accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It gave P.E.O. time to settle legal details and to plan for the administration of the college. The report of Mrs. Ola Babcock Miller, president of Supreme Chapter, to the 1929 convention, revealed the manner in which P.E.O. prepared itself for the operation of a college:

> The heavy work of this administration has centered around Cottey College. The convention of 1927, dazed and unbelieving, accepted, at the hand of its founder and president, the amazing gift of her life work. The convention hesitated; thrilled, appalled; delighted, afraid.
>
> Like our other two philanthropies this undertaking is as unique as the Sisterhood is unique.... I have been amazed to see that the news of this thing that we are doing has traveled far, I know not how. A Dean of Education in an eastern University said, "O, yes, that Junior College in Missouri! That is an unique experiment. You will find educators everywhere watching it with keenest interest."
>
> We have found astonishing cooperation. The two years of hard toil have taught us this: that all people who are interested in the promotion of education, are eager to help everyone else who is trying to do the same thing. Presidents of universities, deans of education, educators everywhere, have answered our letters, granted us interviews, given unstintingly of their advice, as to policy, administration, and development. With one accord they have said, "Go slow, be careful. In the beginning you must feel your way. Don't hamper yourself with a complicated machine, which you will have difficulty in getting rid of later" (13, c, pp. 11-12).

The executive board arranged the legal details of the transaction, and, after almost two years of searching, hired Dr. Mary Rose Prosser to assume the duties of president of Cottey College in 1929 when Mrs. Stockard retired.

The next executive board with Mrs. Edith Markham Wallace as president of Supreme Chapter assumed complete control of the college and served as a Cottey College board as well. In addition, they appointed an advisory committee composed of Mrs. Ola B. Miller, immediate past president of Supreme Chapter; Mr. Joseph Elliff, of Missouri University; and Mr. Lee B. Ewing, a business man of Nevada, Missouri.

Mary Rose Prosser, Ph.D., who became president of Cottey College in the summer of 1929, was a woman of extremely broad training and experience. She became a registered nurse in 1916, then earned three degrees from the University of Iowa. After receiving the Ph.D. in 1928, she taught at high school and college levels, and for a time, organized and supervised as principal, the Perkins School for crippled children, maintained by the University of Iowa.

Dr. Prosser took to Cottey College knowledge, enthusiasm, and a tremendous capacity for work, yet she could not overcome the uncertain financial status of the college. A general depression, of major proportions was developing by 1931 and 1932 which, together with inadequate facilities resulted in decreased enrollment and subsequent lower income for Cottey College.

Although P.E.O. gifts to the college continued, funds were never adequate. Executive boards were reluctant to suggest dues or assessments since the support of Cottey College by gifts was stressed at the time of acceptance of the college by P.E.O. Perhaps the majority of P.E.O.'s had not yet realized that while owning a college was a wonderful project, it was also an expensive one and one that needed assured income.

Dr. Prosser made excellent contributions to Cottey College, reorganizing and strengthening many parts of the program both before and after the rejection of Cottey's application for membership in the North Central Association March 22, 1932. The association recognized that good progress was being made and offered encouraging suggestions.

One point that affected the decision of the association was lack of a board of trustees. To remedy that situation a board of seven trustees was appointed in 1932 by Mrs. Zora Y. Knight, president of Supreme Chapter with approval of the executive board. Nearness to Cottey College, in the interest of expense, was one element in the choice of the following trustees: Mrs. Edith Prouty Prichard, a past president of Supreme Chapter; Mrs. Louise M. Henely, a past state president with six years of experience on the board of trustees of the

Educational Fund; Mrs. Mary Van Zile, for many years Dean of Women at Kansas State College; Mrs. Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard, founder and donor of the college; O. G. Sanford, Dean of the University of Kansas City; Dr. George Ware Stephens, Dean of Students, Washington University, Saint Louis, Missouri; and Dr. Isaac McCash, President, Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma. Mrs. Prichard was elected chairman at the first meeting of the board July 12, 1932.

Dr. Prosser resigned as president of Cottey College, effective June, 1933. The board of trustees, with the approval of the executive board of Supreme Chapter, elected Dr. Florence H. Boehmer president, effective July, 1933.

Dr. Boehmer was an exceptional student with a background of many excellent educational opportunities with an A.B. from Drury College, M.A. in education from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. She went to Cottey College from a state teachers' college in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she had been dean of women and professor of education. Both Dr. Prosser and Dr. Boehmer received full cooperation from other faculty members in their efforts to produce, with insufficient funds, a college of high quality.

That state of affairs was not readily solved. Despite great numbers of articles in The P.E.O. Record and informative programs at state conventions, all designed to make Cottey College known and understood, there still remained opposition to Cottey's acceptance as there had been from the beginning. As Mrs. Wallace said, "We have not all marched in step for we have not all heard the same tune."

A recommendation to sever P.E.O.'s connection with Cottey College was slated to be presented before the 1933 convention of Supreme Chapter scheduled to meet in Kansas City. Mrs. Zora Y. Knight, president of Supreme Chapter conceived the idea of taking the entire convention delegation to Nevada, Missouri, for a day at Cottey College. Arrangements were made for a special train and the second day of convention was the date set. Southern Missouri can be "enchantingly lovely" in October, as it demonstrated that day.

Cottey College and Nevada, Missouri, were ready to welcome the 743 delegates and 139 visitors. A long line of cars was waiting to transport them to the College. Students eagerly conducted them on a tour of the campus. There were only three buildings on the campus but they were shown lovingly and proudly.

The evening meeting in Kansas City was presented by three members of the board of trustees who discussed administrative problems of Cottey College. The next day when the recommendation to discontinue support of Cottey College was called up for vote, it was defeated by a large majority.

Dr. Boehmer travelled widely presenting Cottey College at conventions of state chapters and other P.E.O. groups. The executive board of Supreme Chapter interested state chapters in providing scholarships for Cottey College and later guaranteed a specific amount for Cottey support. Continuous efforts were made to build a strong academic program, and to obtain faculty members of high quality. Real progress was made in all areas of administration.

Dr. Boehmer resigned in 1938. Miss Marjorie Mitchell was named president of Cottey College April 23, 1938.

Dr. Mitchell, a native of Ohio, with degrees from Western Reserve University and Radcliffe, was working on a doctorate at Columbia University when she received a letter from Dr. McCash of the Cottey College board of trustees asking if she would be interested in coming to Cottey. She replied that she would not be, but later consented to meet with the board in Kansas City. She had taught at the University of Akron and later became Dean of Women there, now, as she said, "she decided to try her hand at Cottey." She "tried it" for ten challenging years. In strong, analytical terms she interpreted Cottey's needs to P.E.O., and when World War II was over, she and the board of trustees pointed the way that Cottey must go. P.E.O. followed that lead and Cottey College moved forward confidently for the first time in the twenty years of P.E.O. ownership. Miss Mitchell lived in Missouri Hall her first two years at Cottey. The fire which destroyed that building in 1940 also destroyed all of Miss Mitchell's material for a doctorate. In recognition of her work at Cottey, Iowa Wesleyan conferred an honorary doctorate upon her in 1942.

Dr. Marjorie Mitchell was president of Cottey College from 1938 to 1949. Those years encompassed World War II, and brought their own special problems, but they brought growth and development of the college in many ways. The highlights of those years were aptly described in 1952 by Dr. Blanche H. Dow who succeeded Dr. Mitchell as president:

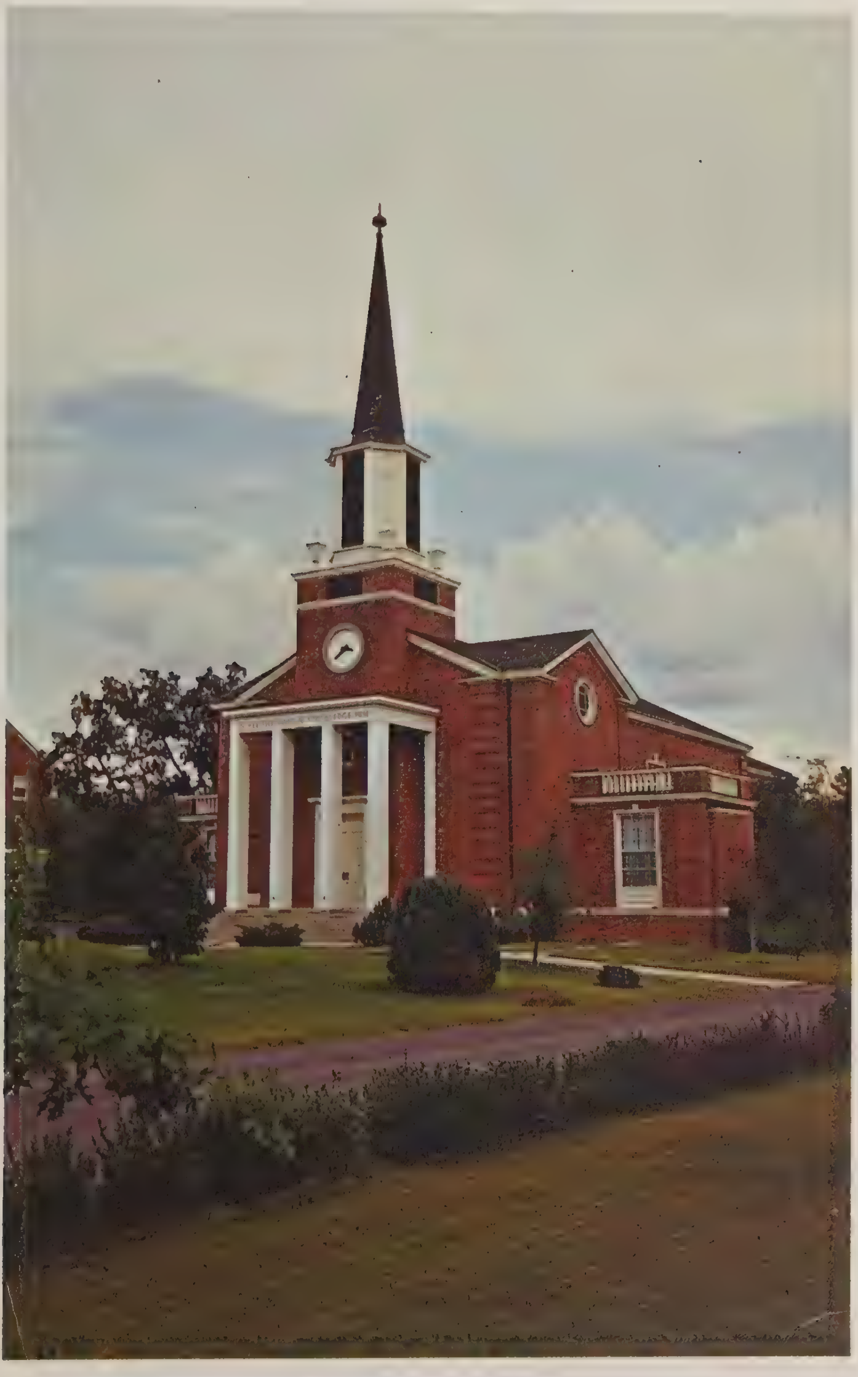
> In 1939 the P.E.O. Sisterhood began an ambitious program of expansion at Cottey College with the construction of P.E.O. Hall, a dormitory for 100 girls [with rooms] arranged in suites...for each group of ten. In 1941, the college was fully accredited by the North Central Association. In 1946, Faculty House, a residence for those members of the faculty who choose to live there, was acquired by purchase. In 1947, the P.E.O. Sisterhood wrote into its bylaws the systematic financial support of the college based on per capita dues. [The 1947 convention also voted to borrow from the P.E.O. Educational Fund to finance the building program.]

Old Main, 1963

In 1949 a second dormitory, Winona Evans Reeves Hall, again arranged to carry out the suite plan of living, was erected at a cost of nearly half a million dollars. A new heating plant serving the entire college was built the same year. In 1949, too, the College acquired B.I.L. Hill, a forty acre wooded tract, gift of the husbands of P.E.O.'s, B.I.L.'s, Brothers-in-law as they are familiarly called, hardly less interested in the development of Cottey College than their P.E.O. wives. Through the generosity of the B.I.L.'s an overnight Lodge has been built on the Hill, both Hill and Lodge valuable additions to the recreational facilities of the college. In 1951 P.E.O. Annex was acquired by purchase, and in 1952 a residence property adjacent to the campus, which will be used to house the overflow students in the interim before a third dormitory can be constructed.

P.E.O. Hall

In the middle forties the college made an important decision—to commit itself and to limit its effort to a single program, that of liberal arts. Its curriculum includes no vocational or terminal courses, although the exploration of vocational opportunities for women is an important part of its counseling program. Its aim is to give sound preparation in those basic subjects of the two years of college or university which are the instruments of growth and of preparation for adult life with its implication on responsible citizenship. The liberal curriculum includes the pure sciences of social studies, language and literature, the arts (10, Dec. 1952, pp. 17-18).



Chapel, Gift of B.I.L.'S

Dr. Mitchell resigned as president in 1949 and Dr. Blanche Hinman Dow was appointed as president, effective September 1. She was in Europe at the time her appointment was announced.

Dr. Dow comes from a family of educators. As she has said many times, "I have spent my whole life in a college." She was born in Louisiana, Missouri, where her father was president of McCune College. She was graduated from Smith College, took her advanced degrees at Columbia University and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. Before coming to Cottey she was a member of the faculty at Northwest Missouri State College, Maryville, where she served under various titles, her last one being Professor of French, and Chairman of the Department of Romance Languages.

Lodge at B.I.L. Hill, 1967

During the years that Dr. Dow was president she held fast to Cottey traditions, built a strong academic program, and extended the boundaries of Cottey College. She traveled extensively making friends for Cottey wherever she went and she was adept in matters of human relations. Hers was the articulate voice that interpreted Cottey College to P.E.O.'s in Canada and the United States and to the world.

Dr. Blanche Hinman Dow

Soon after Dr. Dow became president the executive board of Supreme Chapter instigated an event held at Cottey which has become known as the Cottey College – P.E.O. Seminar. It is held biennially in September on even numbered years and is under the direction of the first vice president of Supreme Chapter. It is designed primarily as a place where Cottey College chairmen and chapter officers may assimilate first-hand information about Cottey College. Delegates are housed on the campus; discussion classes touching every phase of Cottey are held under the direction of administrators or other faculty members. Some students come to the college a week early in order to serve as guides or in other needed capacities.

Under Dr. Dow's direction, Cottey College grew and prospered. The following paragraphs are quoted from an article in the September, 1964, issue of The Cottey College Bulletin:

> On July 1, Dr. Blanche H. Dow announced her retirement as president of Cottey College, effective July 1, 1965.
>
> Her retirement will mark the end of a 16-year era in Cottey College history which has been studded with dynamic progress. Under the enthusiasm and vision of Dr. Dow's administration, Cottey College has become nationally and internationally known as a college of high academic standards that believes in its trademark, College of World Friendship.
>
> Under Dr. Dow's presidency, the College has raised its academic standards, opened its doors to international students, initiated a third year of study abroad program for its graduates, more than doubled its enrollment and nearly doubled the size of its campus. During Dr. Dow's administration, the College has added to the campus a $250,000 chapel, a million dollar dormitory for 150 students and a new library building valued at a half million dollars.

The following paragraphs are quoted from an article prepared by Dr. Dow about the time she left the campus. They present a brief picture of Cottey thinking as related to its religious heritage, traditions, democratic spirit, and international emphasis:

Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library, 1963

Cottey College has kept throughout its more than eighty years of uninterrupted college operation the basic traditions of its founding. To safeguard those traditions and to reinterpret them in terms of our ever changing social structure has been and will continue to be the first obligation of the administration, secondarily the obligation of its faculty. Only in the power of both to recognize, to evaluate and to give direction to the responses of an undergraduate body can their lasting significance be reckoned. The character and the quality of a college rest in the character and the quality of its staff and its students.

Honesty of mind and high standards of academic performance are a first tradition of Cottey College. Students today (1965) rank in ability and in achievement before college, in the upper third of all students admitted to colleges and universities in the United States. Their ability is unquestioned. To fail to maintain an academic program which commands the total use of their tested power would be betrayal. The intellectual program of a college is a first concern.

The deeprooted religious principles of the Founder of Cottey College touch each generation of students in the emphasis which the college sustains on the basic principles of Christian teaching and their translation into the everyday life of the campus.

> The experience of study, learning, of listening, looking, weighing, of analysis and synthesis, all undertaken in the quest of understanding as well as of knowledge, repeats itself with the constantly renewed student group against a background of democratic attitude and action. In the simplicity of its slogan, "Cottey College of World Friendhsip," there are embodied the principles of its democratic life and of its world wide relationships. Since 1950 girls from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America have brought the contribution of their cultures and of themselves to extend and to enrich the Cottey program within the context of the democratic life of its American and Canadian student group.
>
> A sound and solid academic program, changing always, of course, to meet the challenge of new scientific knowledge, new philosophic concepts; an abiding religious emphasis which reveals itself in terms of ethical behavior, of understanding and compassion and personal service; an atmosphere of equality and freedom with the safeguards of direction, a ring of friendship round the world—this is Cottey College, small and happy, serious and fine, holding as a treasure the lasting values of its past, aspiring and expectant as it looks to the future.

The appointment of Mr. Ted McCarrel as president of Cottey College was announced in April, 1965, to become effective July 1, with the retirement of Dr. Blanche H. Dow.

Mr. McCarrel served on the board of trustees of Cottey College from 1960 to July 1, 1965 being elected chairman of the board in March, 1962. He was familiar with all phases of Cottey College operation. His choice as president was not a surprising one. He was inaugurated as president of Cottey College October 4, 1965, at the P.E.O. convention of Supreme Chapter in Atlantic City.

In February, 1966, fire destroyed the Lodge on B.I.L. Hill. Good planning made it possible to rebuild the Lodge immediately, on the same site. It was dedicated December 15, 1966. The new Lodge is attractive, well built and about twice as large as the first one. It is used extensively by students, faculty and staff.

President McCarrel came to Cottey from the University of Iowa where he served as dean of admissions and registrar from 1946 until his appointment as executive dean in 1961. In 1961 he was honored with the first American College Testing Program Award in recognition of "his vision, dedication and enterprise as co-founder of the American Testing Program." He warrants a very long list of other responsibilities and accomplishments.

President McCarrel has degrees from Western Illinois State University, The University of Missouri, additional graduate work at the University of Missouri and the University of Wisconsin. In 1965 he was honored with a degree of Doctor of Education by Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa.

Mrs. McCarrel is a graduate of Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri, and a past president of Iowa State Chapter, P.E.O.

COTTEY COLLEGE

Cottey Girls in Action

The McCarrels are noted for their gracious hospitality, and for the first time in Cottey history the wife of a president helps to extend it.

The 1967 convention of Supreme Chapter voted to increase the per capita assessment for Cottey College from $2.00 to $4.00 and approved the construction of the following buildings on the campus of Cottey Junior College: a Health and Physical Fitness building; a student Center; and a classroom and Science Laboratory building.

Dr. Ted McCarrel

This chapter about Cottey College contains very little about the excellent curriculum, the fine faculty, and the policies and procedures under which the college functions. It does not tell of the Cottey traditions, the outstanding musical events, the unusual suite plan of dormitory living, nor the wonderful opportunities to develop leadership. It does not tell of the splendid part B.I.L.'s (husbands of P.E.O.'s) have taken in the development of B.I.L. Hill, the Lodge, and the exquisite chapel. It does not tell of the magnificent gifts that have made possible much of the development of Cottey College, nor does it tell of the dedicated service of hundreds of individuals devoted to the college. It mentions but does not describe the beautiful and functional buildings set on a campus, still lovely despite a four-lane highway that divides it.

It does not tell of the hundreds of young women who, on leaving Cottey College, carry in their hearts a deeper faith, a greater knowledge of themselves and their abilities, and perhaps a greater love and tolerance for mankind. Each would warrant a chapter of its own. Here is recorded only a glimpse of Cottey College and its unusual relationship to the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

19 International Peace Scholarship Fund

The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship project—like other P.E.O. projects and like P.E.O. itself—did not make its debut as a full-scale philanthropic and educational plan, but rather evolved gradually, over a period of years, searchingly, gropingly, like a plant reaching for the sun.

It was part of the chaotic, changing social structure of the mid-twentieth century war years and the restless ones that followed. It was born out of humanity's need for understanding, and P.E.O.'s desire to share knowledge with young women of foreign countries.

The smoke of Pearl Harbor had scarcely cleared away before P.E.O.'s started a stream of letters to the executive board of Supreme Chapter wanting to know what P.E.O. could do, and suggesting some central fund to be used wherever needed. Mrs. Blanche D. Walker, president of Supreme Chapter, named Mrs. Carrie B. Simpson, first vice president, as chairman of the P.E.O. war effort.

Members of local chapters were doing every conceivable type of war work in their own communities. It required a twenty-five page typewritten report to list the services concerning the 1941-1943 biennium.

United Victory Fund Established 1941-1943

Mrs. Walker's correspondence included numerous suggestions that P.E.O. unite in some special war objective. The requests were presented to the executive board at its meeting in November, 1942. The result, after due consideration, was to authorize the setting up of what was termed The P.E.O. United Victory Fund, this to be devoted to whatever purpose was considered by the National Red Cross, as its greatest need (13 c, 1943, p. 46).

Mrs. Simpson, reported to the 1943 convention on her work as chairman of the United Effort in Women's War Work. The following paragraph was included in her report:

> The most appealing phase of our war work is its culmination in the P.E.O. United Victory Fund. Early in the war, letters came from almost every state and province expressing the desire for a project of our very own. For many months this could not be granted. Red Cross was in the throes of rapid growth, and immediate, unyielding needs came first. ...The executive board decided to establish the fund and have it ready for use when the time came.
>
> Mrs. Blanche D. Walker went to Washington, D.C., late in 1942 and made the purchase of our first clubmobile. Money came in so rapidly that within a few weeks she was able to purchase three more. These are recreation and disaster units to be used in foreign service, and they will minister to our boys in the front lines and in the foxholes. This service touches our hearts and meets an imperative need of the service men. To date the treasury has received $21,000 for this fund.... We hope that this convention will make a generous gift to the Victory Fund (13 c, 1943, pp. 124-125).

The "generous gift" mentioned above was presented as a motion by Miss Rose Owens to transfer a sufficient amount from the General Fund to make a total of $50,000 in the Victory Fund, that amount to be given in honor of the president, Mrs. Blanche D. Walker. The motion was carried.

War emergency authority was established within the executive board of Supreme Chapter.

Loans, Scholarships, and Victory Fund
1943-1945

The idea of loans, grants, fellowships, or scholarships to foreign students was not a new concept in the field of education in the early 1940's. Most major universities or colleges in Canada and the United States had generous numbers of foreign students on their campuses long before World War II. The new concept was that P.E.O. might sometime interest itself in such a project.

An optimistic note in the 1943 convention was the authorization of a Post-war Planning Committee. Early in the 1943-1945 biennium, Mrs. Simpson appointed four members to the committee: Mrs. Emily M. Baldwin, chairman; Mrs. Maude G. Brinck, Mrs. Dorothy Jordan Livermore, and Mrs. Hope G. Robinson. Mrs. Baldwin, reporting for the committee at the convention of Supreme Chapter in 1945, made 14 proposals for study and possible adoption. Points 3 and 11 are relevant to the establishment of loans, grants, fellowships, or scholarships for foreign students, and are quoted as follows:

> 3 – As a contribution toward better understanding between nations this committee suggests that the rules governing the use of the Educational Loan Fund of the Sisterhood be given not only an interpretation liberal enough to include loans to foreign students for study in the United States and Canada, but that the Board of Trustees of the Fund seek to find such students through the proper channels, such as the Institute of International Education, New York City.

Composite "World" of International Peace Scholarship Students

Composite "World" of International Peace Scholarship Students

> 11 – In the interest of international brotherhood and understanding between peoples this committee suggests that the Sisterhood throughtfully and seriously consider the attendance of foreign students at Cottey Junior College, and that state chapters consider the providing of scholarships for such worthy and promising students.

Two other reports at the 1945 convention transferred suggestions and expressed concern for loans, grants, fellowships or scholarships to foreign students: Mrs. Stolter's report as chairman of the P.E.O. Educational Fund, and Mrs. Hine's report as executive secretary (See Chapter 15). The Victory Fund was expanded greatly during the 1943-1945 biennium, many chapters giving far more than the requested minimum of one dollar per month per chapter. A total of $128,416.66 was contributed by the end of the biennium. Purchase and maintenance of five clubmobiles amounted to $105,000. Christmas food packages for allied prisoners of war were bought through the Canadian Red Cross, at a cost of $2,500. A lounge was furnished on the hospital ship Algonquin for $487.20. Shortly before the 1945 convention, 540 bedside radios were purchased for use of veterans in hospitals.

1945 – 1947

Loan and scholarship activities were not extensive during the first post war biennium, 1945-1947, however, some progress and recommendations were made, and were reported by Mrs. Ruth Reed Stewart chairman of the Educational Fund and Mrs. Hazel E. Hine, executive secretary.

Mrs. Stewart reported granting three loans to young women of foreign birth – one from China, another from Yugoslavia, and the third a Japenese girl from Hawaii. Each was sponsored by a P.E.O. chapter (13, c, 1947, pp. 88, 89).

Granting the three loans to foreign students was in keeping with proposal three, in Mrs. Baldwin's report. The trustees had adopted it and two other proposals as goals of study and promotion.

Study revealed two classes of foreign students to whom loans might be made: (1) those who plan to return to their native country and (2) refugee students who plan to remain in Canada or the United States. For the first group, the Institute of International Education advised only scholarships because of currency restrictions and difficulties involved in collecting loans. The trustees of the Educational Fund explored the idea of scholarships and passed on its suggestions to the Peace Participation Committee (13, c, 1947, p. 88).

The Peace Participation Committee was appointed by Mrs. Dorothy L. Weller, president of Supreme Chapter, in accordance with a recommendation made by the Post-war Planning Committee to the convention of Supreme Chapter in 1945. Members appointed were:

Mrs. Rena Mary Taylor, past president Colorado State Chapter, chairman and coordinator; Miss Mabel Fraser, Hawaii; Miss Lulu Fairbanks, Washington; Mrs. Alice C. Smith, past president, British Columbia Provincial Chapter; and Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, past president New Jersey State Chapter.

Contributions to the United Victory Fund continued and made possible gifts to veterans' hospitals and donations for foreign food relief. It was recommended that the fund be continued and its scope broadened. The following recommendation was submitted by the executive board and adopted by the 1947 convention of Supreme Chapter:

> 4. That the United Victory Fund be continued and that it be used for aid to disabled veterans and for the promotion of peace in the world (13, c, 1947, p. 41).

1947–1949

The last phrase in the foregoing recommendation made it possible for the executive board to allocate $3,000 from the Victory Fund, to be used to bring a foreign student to the United States or Canada under the supervision of the Peace Participation Committee and the Post-war Work chairman, with final approval by the executive board. The action was taken at the May, 1949, meeting of the executive board.

Mrs. Laura Storms Knapp, chairman of Post-war Work, which at that time involved only the work of the United Victory Fund, reported thus at the 1949 convention of Supreme Chapter:

> An active interest has been shown for some time in the possibility of P.E.O. concerning itself with the granting of international scholarships. Upon investigation this seemed desirable and...the executive board [was requested] to allocate $3,000 for this purpose. [Members of] The Peace Participation Committee had long been thinking along this same line and they accepted the commission with enthusiasm. Their prompt action is commendable. The thoroughness with which they have done this work gives us confidence in their decision (13, c, 1949, p. 115).

Members of the Peace Participation Committee were Mrs. Helen P. Stevenson, Mrs. Gladys Beeson, Mrs. Amy W. Coleman, Miss Lulu Fairbanks, and Mrs. Alma B. Pearson. Mrs. Stevenson reported for the committee as follows:

> Our P.E.O. Sisterhood has been interested in education from the time the Sisterhood was organized. Milestones along the way were reached when the Educational Loan Fund was started and when Cottey College became an outstanding P.E.O. project. This year one further milestone was reached with the setting up of an International Scholarship Fund. This committee had been hoping for months that our Supreme Chapter could have such a fund.

> When the Executive Board at its May meeting made available $3,000 from its United Victory Fund, to be used for a foreign student, there was real rejoicing among our members.
>
> The applicant selected...for 1949-1950 is Miss Kisti Jaantile of Finland, a charming and talented young woman of 26, who has just received a degree from the University of Helsinki. She has worked as a reporter and as a managing editor for a Finnish newspaper, also a managing editor of...[a] theater and film magazine in Scandinavia. She will attend the University of Minnesota for one year, after which she will return to her own country to continue her editorial work (13, c, p. 125).

Investigation revealed that many colleges waived tuition for foreign students. For that reason the $3,000 allocated was sufficient for two scholarships. The executive board agreed. The second scholarship was awarded to Margretta Alder of Switzerland, a social director in industry, to attend Columbia University in New York. International Scholarships, as they were called, had become a reality.

The Victory Fund continued to serve veterans in hospitals and to help with foreign relief. During the 1947-1949 biennium $11,885.29 went to CARE, and $19,215.79 was spent for service to veterans. It would take many pages to tell of that work. Personal contacts were made and the correspondence was immense. P.E.O. Grey Ladies and B.I.L.'s often helped with contact work in hospitals. One was seldom conscious of names in connection with the Victory Fund. Only service was important. It is not surprising that the United Victory Fund became a brilliant page in P.E.O. history.

It was to be expected that state P.E.O. chapters as well as Supreme Chapter would interest themselves in scholarships for foreign students. Perhaps the first state scholarship granted was from Washington State Chapter. Miss Lulu Fairbanks, a member of the Peace Participation Committee, whose home was in Seattle, spoke on Peace Pointers at the 1948 state convention. Two days later, June 2, 1948, Washington State Chapter voted to grant $150 to a foreign woman student through the Foundation of International Understanding Through Students.

1949–1951

Six scholarships were granted during the second year of the 1950-1951 biennium. Existing patterns were followed for choice of recipients and disbursement of moneys from the United Victory Fund. Mrs. Gertrude P. Tomhave, second vice president of Supreme Chapter, served as chairman. Her report in the Proceedings of the 1951 convention of Supreme Chapter was a thrilling one, as each applicant for a loan became a personality on the P.E.O. scholarship page.

1951 – 1953

Mrs. Nell Farrell Stevenson, second vice president of Supreme Chapter, was chairman of the Post-war Work Committee through 1951-1953 when 50 scholarships were granted. Scholarship gifts were still channeled through the United Victory Fund which, in turn, constituted most of the work of the Post-war Work Committee. The Peace Participation Committee had continued its educational program work keyed to local chapters, with Mrs. Gladys Beeson directing the work of the committee. The convention of 1953 adopted the following recommendations, relevant here because they affected the scholarship program:

> (a) That the United Victory Fund be used for International Peace Scholarships, unless otherwise directed by the executive board of Supreme Chapter, and that chapters and members be urged to continue voluntary contributions to the fund for this purpose.
>
> That money now on hand in the fund be expended for the purposes for which given.
>
> (b) That aid to veterans and overseas relief be conducted by chapters and members individually, and that the Post-war Work and Peace Participation Committees be terminated at the close of convention, with appreciation to the members for the service rendered (13, c, 1953, p. 40).

With the adoption of the two recommendations, the International Scholarships became the International Peace Scholarships, although it continued to be administered within the United Victory Fund. The scope of the program was, and still is, dependent upon the amount of gifts to the fund. Mrs. Stevenson said of the program:

> This scholarship program is P.E.O.'s own effort to promote peace through friendship and understanding among the peoples of the world. Can you think of a better way to accomplish this than to offer to the daughters of many lands the opportunity to live and study in the United States and Canada? As they learn our language and customs, they learn also our ideals of freedom and democracy.... Because of this program P.E.O.'s influence has been extended to twenty-six countries and in every one of them the name of P.E.O. is known and honored (13, c, 1953, p. 107).

1953 – 1955

There were 74 scholarships granted for the 1953-1955 biennium when Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard, second vice president, was chairman of the program. Scholarship gifts amounted to $77,382.80. The work of the scholarship chairman fell easily into three phases: the prospective student, the student for whom grants had been decided but not yet made, and the student who was enrolled. All three phases involved heavy correspondence. Even when enrolled, the student was expected to keep in contact with the chairman by personal letters at least once every three months. That meant an exchange of friendly letters. Warm friendships with fine students often resulted. Mrs. Rinehard spoke of that important part of the scholarship program: Your chairman is convinced that the gift of friendship and the many little things done for these students is perhaps almost more important than the financial assistance—that is the comment in the letters which come from the girls who return to their own countries (13, c, 1955, p. 91).

1955–1957

Policies and procedure for administration of scholarship funds received special attention through the 1955-1957 biennium. Specific rules were set up in the beginning and additions or changes were made as needed. Usually policy changes were made for one of two reasons: increase in the numbers of scholarship students, or information gained through previous years of experience.

The number of scholarships granted during the 1955-1957 biennium, 141, almost doubled the number processed the previous biennium. Gifts to the fund were generous, being recorded as $103,868.19. Mrs. Margaret Emily Stoner was chairman of International Peace Scholarships those two years. The following paragraphs concerning policies are quoted from her excellent report to the 1957 convention of Supreme Chapter:

> It has seemed advisable to impose restrictions as to age (eighteen or older), college classification (junior, senior, or graduate), length of time scholarship assistance is available (two years), and assurance that the student can provide round trip transportation, a sponsor, and partial support.
>
> At the very beginning of the program it was determined that P.E.O. funds would not be used outside the United States and Canada; therefore it was necessary that the student have her round trip expenses assured before a scholarship could be awarded.
>
> With the increasing number of students it was decided that each student should have a sponsor, someone residing here who will be responsible for her in the event of an emergency. This year for the first time P.E.O. will provide accident and health insurance for the students, but the committee believes that this insurance should not in any way alter the personal sponsor.
>
> The heightened interest of the members of P.E.O. in this educational project has been demonstrated by their generous giving to the fund, Peace Scholarship students will study at Cottey during 1957-58. As their predecessors have done, they will widen the horizons of their fellow students, and Cottey College will continue to be known as a campus of world friendships.
>
> The heightened interest of the members of P.E.O. in this educational project has been demonstrated by their generous giving to the fund, their numerous recommendations for the students, their willingness to act as sponsors, and their personal and friendly concern for these women so far from family and friends (13, c, 1957, pp. 102-103).

1957–1959

With Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey as chairman during the 1957-1959 biennium, 187 scholarships were granted and disbursements amounted to $137,250.00.

After ten years of successful operation the scholarship program was granted status as a P.E.O. project under its own name at the 1959 convention of Supreme Chapter. The name of United Victory Fund was terminated; the name of the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarships was changed to the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund. As established, it became Article XIV in the bylaws of Supreme Chapter. The Article contained five sections: Establishing Act, Administration, Duties of Committee, The Fund, and Requirements.

Administration was assigned to a standing committee of three active members of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

1959–1961

In accordance with the bylaws as adopted by the convention of 1959, the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund was administered by a committee of three during the 1959-1961 biennium. In her report to the 1961 convention of Supreme Chapter, Mrs. Margaret Emily Stoner, president, included the following statements concerning the Scholarship program: "The establishing act gave official status to a project which was already firmly established in the hearts of the members of the Sisterhood. The source of income continues to be voluntary, and with wisdom and understanding this income is capably and efficiently administered by a committee of three: Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, chairman; Mrs. Irene S. VanBrunt; and Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey" (13, c, 1961, p. 64). All were members of the executive board. The committee granted 171 scholarships for an expenditure of $166,848.

That was the only standing committee of three that functioned for the program. The 1961 convention amended the constitution and Article XIV of the bylaws to provide for a Board of Trustees of the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund. By that action the Scholarship Fund was placed on the same basis with other projects. It had reached mature status.

1961–1963

Such a flexible and expanding program must always be keyed to change. The three members appointed to the first board of trustees, for two, four, and six years respectively, were: Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, second vice president of Supreme Chapter and a member of the 1959-1961 Scholarship Committee, chairman; Mrs. Rose Shelly, past president of New Jersey State Chapter; and Mrs. Dorothy T. Chaney, past president of South Dakota State Chapter.

The volume of operation within the Scholarship Fund had increased so rapidly that in April, 1963, plans were formulated to move the routine work of the scholarship program to the executive office. The move was effected in the fall. All administration of the fund continued under the direction of the trustees.

In 1962 tax exemption under United States Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3) was requested. Necessary information was provided and the request was granted in September.

Through this and the previous biennium only graduate students were considered for scholarships, Cottey College scholarship students excepted. Advanced students were found to give better service after returning to their own countries. The trustees granted 182 scholarships with an expenditure of $210,764.91.

1963 – 1965

With the convention of 1963, Mrs. Van Brunt retired from the board of trustees and Mrs. Rose Shelly assumed the chairmanship, with Mrs. Dorothy T. Chaney and the new appointee, Mrs. Dorothy Griffith, as the other two trustees.

The office was moved to Des Moines and a secretary placed in charge of the work there. Other work was conducted by the trustees in their homes. The trustees granted 181 scholarships with an expenditure of $201,523.10.

Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, president of Supreme Chapter, died June 13, 1964, the first president of Supreme Chapter to die in office. The executive board established the Uretta A. Hinkhouse Memorial Fund as a memorial to her, the fund to be accumulated by a share of the Hinkhouse estate and by gifts from chapters and individuals; interest income to be used to provide funds for a Hinkhouse Scholar. Uretta was a loyal supporter of the International Peace Scholarship Fund, (she liked to use the words rather than the initials). She served as chairman of the Fund during 1959-1961. It is hoped that income from the Hinkhouse Memorial Fund will be sufficient, eventually, to provide a scholarship each year.

1965 – 1967

Mrs. Dorothy T. Chaney, South Dakota, was chairman of the board of trustees, 1965-1967. Mrs. Dorothy Griffith, North Dakota, was the second member of the board, and Mrs. Rachel Smith, Louisiana, was the new appointee. The board granted 150 scholarships, amounting to $168,781.39.

The first Hinkhouse Scholar was named in 1966. She was Miss Mehri Hekmati of Tehran, Iran. Her scholarship covered the academic year, 1966-1967.

Miss Hekmati was a renewal applicant studying for a doctorate in education at New York University, with emphasis on teaching English. Her first application was received in 1965, just after she received her M. A. degree from Teachers' College, Columbia University. In Iran she earned the B. A. degree in English and Persian languages, and and M.A. in sociology from Tehran University, after which she taught for four years to enable her to come to the United States for further study. Her ambition is to be a well-qualified teacher of the English language at the college level.

To add to her income in the United States, Mehri has held a full time assistant teaching job in the nursery school of Everett School, New York; has worked as a clerk during the holidays, has been a baby sitter, and one year worked in a cafeteria. Of her background Miss Hekmati said:

> I am not from a well-to-do family, but from an ambitious one. I am one of six children of a Persian middle class family. My parents are both well educated and have tried their best to give all of us children a good education. To them this was the most valuable thing they could offer us; today all of us are grateful to them for being so wise and thoughtful (10, Nov. 1966, p. 2).

Scholarships in Canada

Due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange between Canadian and United States banks, the International Peace Scholarship Fund carries two general fund accounts, one in Canada and one in the United States. Policies are the same for evaluation and selection of recipients of scholarships in Canada and the United States. All money given by Canadian P.E.O. members, chapters, and provincial chapters is used in Canada.

From 1949 to 1968, 56 scholarships were granted to foreign students to attend six universities in Canada: University of British Columbia, Vancouver; United College, Winnipeg, Manitoba; University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; University of Toronto, Ontario; McGill University, Montreal, Quebec; and McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Canadian P.E.O.'s are noted for their generosity, their enthusiasm for the scholarship program, and their gracious courtesies to foreign students. The following quotation from a scholarship student in Canada reflects those attributes:

> My New Year is very nice, thank you. The P.E.O. sisters here have been very kind and generous to me during the Christmas time and I did not feel I was away from home or lonely. I was very much touched by the warmth and affection shown by them to all and I really feel I am extremely fortunate to be a P.E.O. student; otherwise I would not have had this opportunity to know the people of this part of the world and the message of peace and love they impart (10, Mar. 1966, p. 17).

20 State, District, Provincial Chapters

Organization of state chapters was a natural step in the development of P.E.O. As new chapters expanded into state after state, it became increasingly apparent that jurisdiction of local chapters must be centered within state chapters.

The first fifteen state chapters were organized as state grand chapters: Nebraska Grand Chapter, Iowa Grand Chapter, or Missouri Grand Chapter. The constitutional revision of 1919 removed Grand from the name of state chapters and they became Nebraska State Chapter, Iowa State Chapter, or Missouri State Chapter. They are recorded here by the name under which they were organized.

A fresh approach was sought to the development of P.E.O. within states, provinces, and the District of Columbia. Questionnaires were sent to each president. Answers by state presidents or historians are reflected as follows. This is an attempt to tell briefly how P.E.O. traveled to the various states and provinces, and to record correct statistical data regarding organization of chapters.

Nebraska

P.E.O. was taken to Nebraska by Miss Lily Smith, a student at the Methodist Seminary in York, Nebraska. She had spent the summer of 1884 with relatives and friends in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and while there, was initiated into Chapter A. When she returned to Nebraska she was authorized by Chapter A to form a P.E.O. chapter at York.

On February 14, 1885, seven college girls, one Lily's only sister, met at the Smith home and organized Chapter R, later A, Nebraska. Bertha Clark Hughes called attention to the fact that the first chapter in Nebraska, like the first one in Iowa, was organized by seven young women who were students at a Methodist college, young women with Christian ideals and concern for higher education.

At the convention of Grand Chapter that met in Mount Pleasant the fall of 1889, four delegates from Nebraska, Mrs. Alice Cary Briggs, Mrs. Mason Houseworth, Mrs. Jennie H. Bryant, and Mrs. Florence Wightman—representing the seven Nebraska chapters—asked for and were granted permission to organize a Nebraska Grand Chapter as soon as there were eight chapters in Nebraska. A chapter was organized at Holdrege the following December, and one at Wahoo in January.

Nebraska Grand Chapter was organized April 2, 1890, by Mrs. Nannie Torrence Stockman, president of Grand Chapter.

Participating chapters were: R, York; V, Fairfield; 2nd K, Norfolk; AL, Superior; 1st AN, Omaha; 1st AP, Plattsmouth; 1st AQ, Hastings; 1st AR, Holdrege; and AS, Wahoo. (See chart in Chapter 7 for new lettering and dates of chapter organizations.)

The organization meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Jennie Bryant in Omaha, with members of Chapter AN as hostesses. An epidemic of influenza somewhat depleted the hostess list, but with Mrs. Bryant ill in an upstairs bedroom, one other member of Chapter AN as hostess, and a woman in the kitchen to prepare luncheon for the delegates, the organization was completed. Mrs. Alice Cary Brooks Briggs was elected president.

Iowa

P.E.O. began in Iowa with the organization of Chapter A in the music room of Iowa Wesleyan University January 21, 1869. The seven girls who organized Chapter A became the founders of P.E.O. (See Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of this volume). Chapter A was given the name of Chapter Original A by the convention of Supreme Chapter in 1911. In 1967 Chapter Original A had a membership of 75 resident members and 35 nonresident members. When this count was made Miss May Davis, initiated in January, 1886, was still an active member.

Iowa Grand Chapter was organized October 13, 1893, in Waterloo, Iowa, at the close of the convention of Supreme Grand Chapter. Mrs. Winnie Durland, first organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter, was the organizing officer.

The move to establish an Iowa Grand Chapter originated within Chapter N, Ottumwa, later Chapter G, Iowa. Mrs. Alice S. Spilman, Ottumwa, contacted Iowa Chapters. A majority favored the plan, and a petition, signed by Alice S. Spilman, Chapter N, Ottumwa; Lulu McHenry, Chapter AC, Des Moines; Mrs. C. G. Anderson, Chapter AF, Rock Rapids; Mrs. Etta DeArnold, Chapter O, Albia; Miss Emily McCormick, Chapter Z, Chariton; Mrs. Alice Babb, Chapter A, Mount Pleasant; and Mrs. Ollie Gates Pulliam, Chapter M, Moulton, was presented to the 1893 convention of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Permission was granted, and the meeting for organization was called to order at 9:30 in the evening. Although there were 40 chapters in the state, 32 delegates from 22 chapters completed the organization. Mrs. Alice S. Spilman was elected the first president of Iowa Grand Chapter. Officers were installed by Mrs. Alice Briggs of Nebraska, the newly elected president of Supreme Grand Chapter.

The participating chapters were: A, Mount Pleasant; C, Leon; E, Brooklyn; F, Bloomfield; I, Centerville; K, Bonaparte; L, East Des Moines; M, Moulton; N, Ottumwa; P, Keosauqua; Q, Washington; S, Osceola; T, What Cheer; X, Oskaloosa; Y, Knoxville; Z, Chariton; AC, Des Moines; AG, Winterset; AM, Garden Grove; AO, Keokuk; AR, Atlantic; and AY, Ames. (See chart in Chapter 7 for new lettering and dates of chapter organizations.)

Missouri

Josephine Tissue was the link between P.E.O. in Iowa and P.E.O. in Missouri. Josephine and her family lived in Unionville, Missouri, several years then moved back to their old home, Centerville, Iowa, where Josie, as her friends called her, finished high school. Soon after graduation she was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter I, Centerville.

In time Josie visited in Unionville, wearing her P.E.O. pin. Her old friends were fascinated by it but they learned very little about it from Josie. Months passed. In the meantime, Chapter I gave consent for Josie to organize a P.E.O. Chapter in Unionville. Late one morning. May 8, 1886, a buggy drawn by two ponies drew up in front of Nora Brasfield's home in Unionville. Josie and Alice Cole, the president of Chapter I, had driven 23 miles to organize Chapter W with Nora and six of Josie's other friends as charter members.

There being neither telephones nor automobiles, Josie and Alice drove about town to tell the girls of the meeting. Soon the girls were gathered at the Brasfield home and the organization was completed. The table used for the organization is in the Missouri P.E.O. Home at Saint Joseph. The new members forgot to pay initiation fees, or no one asked for them, and they kept wondering why their pins did not come. They had many things to learn and little supervision.

Missouri Grand Chapter was organized October 3, 1894, at Unionville, Missouri, with Chapter W, then Chapter A, Missouri, as the hostess chapter. Two delegates from each of Missouri's seven chapters met at the Christian church for the organization. Mrs. Alice Briggs of Superior, Nebraska, president of Supreme Grand Chapter, was the presiding officer. Daisy Turner Riggs, corresponding secretary of Supreme Grand Chapter, was present and read the dispensation.

Participating chapters were: A, Unionville; B, Cameron; C, Memphis; E, Lancaster; F, Kansas City; G, Queen City; and H, Monroe City. Mrs. Sarah G. Cramer of Chapter C, Memphis, was elected the first president. Delegates visited all stores decorated in honor of P.E.O.

Colorado

At the turn of the century, several unaffiliated P.E.O.'s were living in Denver. Among them was Elizabeth Ogilvie Croft who was initiated into Chapter A while attending the Seminary in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, probably in 1869. Interest in P.E.O. centered around this small group. On September 17, 1900, Chapter A, Colorado was organized at the home of Mattie Killingsworth by Mrs. Flora Chester Herring, president of Supreme Grand Chapter. There were 14 charter members.

During the preliminary work of organization Grace Jones rode her bicycle to contact the ladies since only one member had a telephone. One dimit did not arrive until noon on the day of organization. The new chapter members were so excited they forgot to serve the refreshments.

Soon after the organization of Chapter A, the executive board of Supreme Grand Chapter appointed Mrs. Elizabeth Croft as a district organizer for the state of Colorado. Within three years Mrs. Croft had organized seven more chapters in Colorado. The next step was a state chapter.

Colorado Grand Chapter was organized January 23, 1903, at Denver, Colorado, by Mrs. Carrie Hapeman, president of Supreme Grand Chapter, assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Croft, organizer for the state. The meeting was held at Unity Church with Chapter A as hostess chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Denver; B, Las Animas; C, Colorado Springs; D, Lamar; E, Denver; F, Pueblo; G, Fort Collins; and H, Boulder.

Miss Virginia Corbett was elected president. Delegates voted $1.00 per capita for state chapter dues. The book of proceedings was six pages.

Illinois

It was Ollie Downing who took P.E.O. to Illinois. That was the college year of 1870-1871 when Ollie went to Jacksonville, Illinois, to attend the Jacksonville Female Academy. She had attended Belden's Female Seminary in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, the year before, and while there had been initiated into P.E.O. In Jacksonville Ollie told some of her new friends about the little society in Mount Pleasant. They were charmed, and soon Chapter A in Mount Pleasant gave permission for Ollie to organize a chapter of P.E.O. at Jacksonville. Since it was the third chapter to be organized, it was known as Chapter C. Almost 100 young women belonged to Chapter C during the seven or eight years of its existence. Members of Chapter C helped to organize Grand Chapter in 1883. The chapter was disbanded in 1888 or 1889.

According to Illinois P.E.O. history, a second chapter is believed to have existed at Jacksonville for a few months in 1883-1884, and may have been known as 1st K or L, probably K.

Another attempt was made to establish P.E.O. in Illinois with the organization of Chapter AH, Jerseyville, August 31, 1888. But chapter AH was disbanded October 11, 1893. It may have been inactive for a short time before that.

Then on January 17, 1893, Kittie Edwards Dietrick firmly planted Chapter A in Chicago and became one of the charter members. Kittie not only organized the chapter, but also initiated four candidates. The meeting was held in her home during a severe snowstorm. Two of the prospective members by dimit could not be present. Kittie had been initiated into Chapter C, Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1874; and the following year had organized Chapter G in her home at Troy, Iowa.

Illinois Grand Chapter was organized April 3, 1903, at Monmouth, Illinois, by Mrs. Dora Hallock, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Chicago; B, Clinton; C, Vermont; D, Chicago; E, Monmouth; F, Quincy; G, Alexis; H, Aledo; and I, Chicago.

Mrs. Nellie R. Danks was elected president of Illinois Grand Chapter and in October was elected treasurer of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Kansas

P.E.O. was carried to Kansas in the heart of a young girl. In 1887, Lura Cones, a member of Chapter U, Thorntown, Indiana, moved with her parents to the new but thriving frontier town of Meade Center, where "all manner and classes of folks had come to establish new homes and businesses."

Eventually Lura chose seven of her closest friends and asked Grand Chapter for permission to organize a P.E.O. chapter in Kansas. Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers, president of Grand Chapter, gave her approval and sent the necessary papers, written in longhand, the charter already signed. Lura organized Chapter AB at her home March 5, 1888. Meetings were held once a week, first in homes, then in the meeting room in a bank building, and finally in the Knights of Pythias lodge hall.

Funds were limited in the treasury of Grand Chapter and it was the summer of 1899 before the first official visit was made to Chapter AB and other Kansas chapters by Mrs. Flora Chester Herring, then president of Supreme Grand Chapter. Her visit was made possible because of an advertisement in The P.E.O. Record by the Rock Island Railroad, payment of which was made with a pass for a 1,000 mile ride.

In 1902 Mrs. Dora Hallock, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter, visited the five scattered chapters in Kansas, organized Chapter G in McPherson, and created enthusiasm for a Kansas Grand Chapter. Chapter H, Council Grove, was added in 1903, the seventh chapter in Kansas and the required number for a state chapter.

Kansas Grand Chapter was organized by Mrs. Hallock September 2,1903, in Hutchinson. Mrs. Carrie Hapeman, president of Supreme Grand Chapter, and Miss Mary Osmond, editor of The P.E.O. Record, were guests of honor.

Members of Chapter D, Hutchinson, entertained the delegates and a large number of visitors in their homes. Street cars, mule drawn, furnished part of the needed transportation. A reception and the organization meeting were held in the Commercial Club rooms.

Participating chapters were: A, Meade; C, Lyons; D, Hutchinson; E, Seneca; F, Pratt; G, McPherson; and H, Council Grove.

Mrs. Mamie Axline Fay was elected president of Kansas Grand Chapter.

California

Stella Carver and her husband, Samuel, both graduates of Iowa Wesleyan University, moved to Los Angeles in 1887 and soon settled in Oceanside, a beach town to the south. Dedicated to P.E.O., through membership in Chapter G, Ottumwa, Iowa, Stella organized Chapter AH, later A, California, January 3, 1889. Hard times beset the community. Because of shifting population the chapter existed precariously, and after three years was only a memory. The Carvers moved to Escondido in 1890. Within two months Stella had organized Chapter B, Escondido, a strong chapter from the beginning. Another move took the Carvers to Los Angeles, where Stella and her sister, Martha Winans, were dedicated and very active P.E.O.'s for the rest of their lives. Chapters C and D, Los Angeles, are still known as Carver chapters.

Hulda Miller, who moved from Nebraska to Los Angeles early in 1903, was appointed proxy organizer for California by Supreme Grand Chapter. Before the end of 1903 she had organized four chapters and had called a convocation to form a grand chapter. California Grand Chapter was organized in Los Angeles February 19 and 20, 1904, at the Burbank Theater hall. Mrs. Jennie Burch, organizer for Supreme Grand Chapter, was delayed by heavy rain and a landslide. Mrs. Hulda Miller, as proxy, conducted the first day's proceedings. Arriving the next day, Mrs. Burch ratified the work done and completed the organization.

Participating chapters were: B, Escondido; C, Los Angeles; D, Los Angeles; E, Los Angeles; F, Pasadena; G, Long Beach; and H, Redondo Beach. Jessie Mallory Thayer and Alice Cary Briggs, past presidents of Supreme Grand Chapter, were present for the convocation. Stella Carver was elected president and Hulda Miller elected organizer of the new grand chapter.

Washington

P.E.O. traveled to the far northwest when Jennie Simpson Moore moved to Seattle in 1892. She had been a member of Chapter H in Holdrege, Nebraska.

Soon after her arrival in Seattle, an officer of Supreme Grand Chapter sent her the name of Mrs. Helen Maxon Veile, a P.E.O. from Des Moines, Iowa, who had also moved to Seattle, but the letter gave no street address for her. According to Jennie Moore, her search for Mrs. Veile—a stranger hunting for a stranger in a strange city—would have been amusing, had it not been so serious to her. Eventually, Helen was found.

In the meantime, every woman Jennie Moore met was studied carefully with prospective P.E.O. membership in mind. Jennie chose Martha Steele to help select others for a P.E.O. chapter. Chapter A, Seattle, was organized February 22, 1893, in the home of Mrs. Clara M. G. White on Queen Ann Hill. The charter listed included the two members by dimit, Jennie Moore and Helen Veile, and five initiates. All were ladies from the First Presbyterian Church. They met in the homes of members for a time and, according to one member, there was a B.I.L. party almost every week. Later they met in Boston Block and still later in the Public Library. When the library burned, the president's box with the charter in it also burned.

Washington Grand Chapter was organized at Seattle March 30, 1904, by Mrs. Jennie Allen Burch, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter. The meeting was held at the Butler Hotel and the room was decorated with every yellow flower available.

Participating chapters were: A, Seattle; B, Shelton; C, Tacoma; D, Sedro Wooley; F, Bellingham; and G, Seattle. Chapter E, Spokane, was not represented. After the formal opening, the dispensation for a state chapter was read by Mrs. Burch. It was then moved that a state grand chapter be formed in Washington, duly seconded, and unanimously carried. Such was the regular pattern of procedure.

Mrs. Myrtle Maynard Warson of Chapter A was elected first president of Washington Grand Chapter.

Oklahoma

The state of Oklahoma was still Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory when three women, who had been P.E.O.'s in Iowa, found themselves living in the very new, bustling, and prosperous little town of Okeene in Oklahoma Territory. The three decided to do a little pioneering for P.E.O. by asking for a P.E.O. chapter in Okeene. Mrs. Emma Boardman and Miss Dora Hamilton were members of Chapter AA, Burlington, Iowa. Mrs. Susan Boardman belonged to Chapter CF, State Center, Iowa. With Emma Boardman as sponsor, Mrs. Jennie Burch, organizer for Supreme Grand Chapter, organized Chapter A in Okeene December 16, 1903. There were 12 charter members. Officers elected that day served five consecutive years, with Emma Boardman as president.

On November 22, 1905, Chapter A, Muskogee, was organized in Indian Territory. Other chapters followed in both territories. Then came November 16, 1907, when the two territories were admitted into the Union as one state, Oklahoma. P.E.O. chapter letters were adjusted according to dates of organization. Okeene, having been organized first, retained the letter A.

Oklahoma Grand Chapter was organized January 19, 1909, at Okeene by Mrs. Sophia McLean, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter, and Mrs. Carrie M. Peterson, president.

Participating chapters were: A, Okeene; B, Muskogee; C, Alva; D, Edmond; E, Oklahoma City; F, Geary; G, Sapulpa; H, Pawnee; and I, Lawton.

Mrs. Emma Boardman, who was considered the mother of P.E.O. in Oklahoma, was elected president.

Oregon

Chapter A was organized in Portland August 12, 1905, by Mrs. Harriet Eshelman, president of Washington Grand Chapter. All charter members of Chapter A were initiates. When the question of forming a chapter in Portland was mentioned to them, only one had ever heard of P.E.O.

In 1913, Veda Jones of Chapter BW, Algona, Iowa, was received by dimit into Chapter A. Later Veda served as president and treasurer of Supreme Chapter.

Four days after Chapter A was organized, Chapter B was organized at Elgin. For three years they were the only chapters in the state. Another was added June 13, 1908, and one June 7, 1911. With four chapters in Oregon, the vision of a state grand chapter seemed attainable.

Later in the summer the four Oregon chapters were notified that Miss Edith Prouty, organizer of Supreme Chapter, and Mrs. Winona

Reeves, president, would arrive in Oregon late in August. Charter lists for two new chapters in Portland were awaiting them. Chapter E was organized August 21, 1911, and Chapter F, August 23, 1911.

On the morning of September 5, Chapter G was organized in Salem, making the necessary seven chapters. Delegates and organizers returned to Portland that afternoon where a convocation had been called for the organization of a state grand chapter.

Oregon Grand Chapter was organized September 5, 1911, in the auditorium of the Y.W.C.A. Participating chapters were: A, C, E, and F of Portland; D, Forest Grove; and G, Salem. Because of distance, Chapter B, Elgin, was not represented.

Mrs. Ella S. Herman was elected first president of Oregon Grand Chapter.

Minnesota

Eleven unaffiliated P.E.O.'s living in Minneapolis were charter members of the first chapter in Minnesota. All were members of chapters in Iowa. Chapter A was organized at the home of Mary Wilcox December 12, 1901, with Julia N. Robinson of Chapter AH, Iowa, serving as organizer. The first yearbook lists the following events: Sham Organization; Parliamentary Drill; Vision of Sir Launfal; and Items Concerning Heroes of Recent Wars. Roll call response was made by using quotations from Whitman, Wordsworth, Riley, Emerson. When Chapter A was nine years old dimits were granted to some of the members to form two other chapters in Minneapolis, Chapter D and Chapter E.

Minnesota Grand Chapter was organized April 13, 1912, in the Y.W.C.A. parlors at Minneapolis by Miss Edith Prouty, organizer of Supreme Chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Minneapolis; B, Breckenridge; C, Pipestone; D, Minneapolis; E, Minneapolis; F, Sauk Rapids; G, Northfield; H, South Saint Paul; and I, Saint Paul.

Chapter A issued the invitation to the nine chapters to meet in Minneapolis, and Miss Prouty called the meeting to order. The address of welcome was given by Miss Carrie Evans of Chapter A and the response by Miss Jessie Walkup of Chapter C. Mrs. Grace Runyan Parks, president of Supreme Chapter, addressed the delegates and visitors and read the dispensation. A resolution requesting the formation of a state grand chapter was read by Miss Evans and adoption followed. There were eighteen delegates from the nine chapters and thirty-five visitors.

Miss Carrie M. Evans of Chapter A was elected president.

North Dakota

The P.E.O. pioneers in North Dakota were Mrs. Una B. Herrick and Stella Odekirk. Una was a member of the early chapter at Cameron, Missouri. Stella was a P.E.O. in Iowa before she accepted the position of Supervisor of Art and Music in Valley City, North Dakota. For two years she watched in vain for another P.E.O. pin. Then one day a little girl noticed Stella's pin and remarked that it was just like her mother's. Eventually Stella and Una Herrick met, located a third P.E.O. at the college, and the three formed the nucleus for Chapter A, Valley City, organized March 29, 1906, by Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves, organizer of Supreme Chapter.

By 1913 there were four chapters in North Dakota. Chapter D, at Grand Forks, was organized April 7, 1913. Three of the charter members were acquired by dimit. One of them, Mrs. Carrie Bonebrake Simpson, was particularly desirous of having enough chapters in the state to form a state chapter. Letters expressing that ambition were written to existing chapters in North Dakota and to unaffiliated P.E.O.'s throughout the state. A luncheon in Fargo, to which all P.E.O.'s were invited, was held the autumn of 1913, at the time of the state teachers' association meeting in Fargo.

Mrs. Simpson spoke at the luncheon and aroused enthusiasm for expansion of P.E.O. in North Dakota. Three new chapters were organized in February, 1914, and North Dakota State Chapter was organized in Grand Forks February 27, 1914, by Mrs. Helen M. Drake, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Miss Edith Prouty, president of Supreme Chapter, was present and assisted with the organization. Chapter D was the hostess chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Valley City; B, Dickinson; C, Beach; D, Grand Forks; E, Fargo; F, Bismark; and G, Minot.

Miss Mary Goodrich Deem was elected president. Mrs. Carrie Bonebrake Simpson, who later became president of Supreme Chapter, was elected organizer.

Idaho

Chapter A, Boise, Idaho, was organized April 2, 1904, by Mrs. Jennie A. Burch, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter. There were sixteen members by dimit and two initiates, Mrs. Maud C. Whittock being the first to sign the roll of chapter members. Total chapter enrollment March 1, 1967 was 238.

During the next eleven years six more chapters were organized in Idaho and proceedings were started for the organization of Idaho Grand Chapter, with members of Chapter A as hostesses. According to the minutes a letter was received from Supreme Chapter which suggested that Chapter A appoint committees for music, social, place, and program, and suggested further that the chapter adhere to simplicity. Expenses were to be prorated among members of Chapter A who would be unable to entertain guests in their homes. Places for 33 overnight guests were promised.

According to plan, Idaho Grand Chapter was organized May 24 and 25, 1915, at Boise, Idaho, by Mrs. Helen M. Drake, organizer of Supreme Chapter, and Miss Edith Prouty, president.

Participating chapters were: A, Boise; B, Blackfoot; C, Payette; D, Twin Falls; E, Jerome; F, Caldwell; and G, Gooding.

Meetings were held in the Orange Room of the five-year-old Owyhee Hotel. Chapter D, 150 miles away, could send only two delegates.

Mrs. Lottie Graveley was elected president, and re-elected the following year. As in most states, Idaho P.E.O.'s honor and love the memory of their first efficient president.

South Dakota

Chapter A in South Dakota has had a long and interesting history, "made possible only by the vision, tact, and tireless energy of Mrs. Margaret Rust." When Margaret moved to Elk Point she found no P.E.O. sisters waiting for her, but she found others in this new land whom she came to know and love. So she told them of P.E.O., and apparently she exemplified all of the ideas and ideals of which she spoke. Chapter A was organized at the home of Margaret S. Rust in Elk Point April 26, 1905, by Mrs. Jennie Burch, organizer of Supreme Chapter. There were nine initiates and Mrs. Rust became a charter member by dimit.

The day after Chapter A was organized, Mrs. Burch organized Chapter B in Aberdeen. Perhaps a year later Chapter C appeared at Fairfax, but survived only a few years. In 1906 a group of girls in Wessington Springs decided to form a club. One had heard vaguely of P.E.O., or it may have been only a breeze that whispered the name to a receptive heart. They called their club P.E.O. and they found useful things to do. So Bertha Wainwright Cooper found them when she moved to Wessington Springs the summer of 1906. She alerted the president of Supreme Grand Chapter, Mary D. Lawrence, who sent the organizer, Winona E. Reeves, to investigate. Mrs. Reeves must have liked what she found, for that group of girls became Chapter D October 18, 1906, and is still one of South Dakota's strong chapters. Gradually other strong chapters were added and finally a new state chapter came to be.

South Dakota Grand Chapter was organized at Huron on October 26, 1916, by Mrs. Olga M. Iddiols, organizer of Supreme Chapter, and Mrs. Helen M. Drake, president. Meetings were held in the Presbyterian church with delegates from all nine chapters.

Participating chapters were: A, Elk Point; B, Aberdeen; D. Wessington Springs; E, Vermillion; F, Huron; G, Woonsocket; H, Mobridge; I, Sioux Falls; and J, Mitchell. Two new chapters, I and J, received their charters at the Huron meeting.

Mrs. Margaret S. Rust was elected president.

Wisconsin

Chapter A, Wisconsin, grew out of schoolgirl friendships, some of them continuing from kindergarten through high school. One of the girls, Gertrude Williams Lundgren, married and moved to Burlington, Iowa, where she was initiated into Chapter AA. She suggested to her friends in Milwaukee that they form a chapter there. Two P.E.O.'s living in Milwaukee were helpful: Mrs. Gene Scott Snodgrass of Chapter CR, Iowa, a friend of several in the group, and Mrs. Imogene Wright of Chapter E, Nebraska. The charter list was chosen by those two and March 31, 1906, Chapter A, Milwaukee, was organized at the home of Mrs. Wright, by Mrs. Winona E. Reeves, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter.

The Wisconsin Grand Chapter was organized September 28 and 29, 1917, at the new Plankington Hotel, Milwaukee, by Mrs. Olga M. Iddiols, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Members of Chapter A issued the invitation to other chapters in the state and served as hostesses.

Participating chapters were: A, Milwaukee; B, Appleton; C, Milwaukee; D, Beaver Dam; E, Superior; F, Milwaukee; G, Beaver Dam; H, Madison; and I, Stevens Point.

Mrs. Nellie Hayes Scott, who had been initiated by Chapter A, Mount Pleasant in 1870, while a student at the Seminary, was an interested spectator of early P.E.O. events in Wisconsin. She was the mother of Gene Scott Snodgrass of Chapter A, Milwaukee, and of Miss Rusella J. Scott of Chapter F, also a Milwaukee chapter. Rusella was elected the first president of Wisconsin Grand Chapter. Lilian Simonds, a charter member of Chapter A, was elected first vice president and the following year served as the second president of Wisconsin Grand Chapter.

Michigan

Chapter A was organized in Detroit October 8, 1890, by Georgia and Olyve Parker, sisters who had belonged to Chapter A in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. They selected five other girls and started their new chapter, which was known as Chapter AW until 1892 when chapters were re-lettered according to states. The Parker sisters married the

McMahon brothers and history in Michigan records their many P.E.O. activities under both names.

Another charter member, Ida Palmer, served as first vice president of Supreme Grand Chapter from 1893 to 1895, biennial conventions having been authorized in 1893. Because of the illness of a sister, Ida could not continue. Mrs. Emma C. Hyatt, also a charter member of Chapter A, was elected to the executive board of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1895 as corresponding secretary, and served through four bienniums.

Disturbed that membership records were incomplete, Emma Hyatt gave a very large service to P.E.O. by compiling and recording records of the 8,000 P.E.O.'s in large membership books.

P.E.O. existed in Michigan thirty years before a state chapter was organized, waiting, perhaps, to be the first organized as a state chapter rather than a grand chapter, such authorization having been adopted early in October, 1919.

Michigan State Chapter was organized October 28, 1919, in the Federated Clubs building in Detroit, by Mrs. Belle Musser, organizer of Supreme Chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Detroit; B, Detroit; C, Otsego; D, Detroit; F, Detroit; G, Ann Arbor; and H, Milan. Chapter reports still reflected World War I activities, although hostilities had ceased the year before.

Mrs. Jennie D. Thomson of Chapter A was elected president.

Wyoming

Two P.E.O.'s from Iowa were teaching in the Rawlins schools and decided to organize a P.E.O. chapter. After two years of thought and work a charter list was sent to Supreme Grand Chapter. After a period of anxious waiting, word was received that the petitions had been accepted. Chapter A, Rawlins, was organized March 23, 1906 by Winona Evans Reeves, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Wyoming began to think of a state chapter soon after the convention in Denver in 1919. Wyoming chapters were due for inspection the following year.

Wyoming State Chapter was organized in the Masonic Temple at Rawlins, May 2 and 3, 1921, by Mrs. Belle M. Musser, organizer of Supreme Chapter, assisted by the president, Mrs. Helen D. Townsend, who presided at the opening meeting.

Participating chapters were: A, Rawlins; B, Sheridan; C, Cheyenne; D, Cody; E, Laramie; F, Greybull; G, Casper; H, Riverton; I, Lusk; J, Buffalo; and K, Thermopolis. Mrs. Townsend presented charters to Chapters H, I, J, and K.

Mrs. Maud Gibson Mentzer was elected president. As a girl of 18 Mrs. Mentzer had been initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter M, Knoxville, Iowa.

Montana

The first chapter in Montana was organized at Glendive in 1895 by Mrs. Juliette Carter Rubolton of Chapter G, Iowa. Isolated though the chapter was, members enjoyed two years of working together before disbanding some time in 1897.

On April 25, 1910, P.E.O. again took root in Glendive with the organization of another Chapter A. The new chapter was sponsored by Mrs. Isabella Johnson and the organization meeting was held in her home. Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Melville Clements, and five other women were charter members.

Montana State Chapter was organized May 6 and 7, 1921, in the Commercial Club Rooms at Billings by Mrs. Belle M. Musser, organizer for Supreme Chapter. Billings was chosen for the convocation because of its central location in the state. Although travel distances were great for delegates, all thirteen chapters were represented.

Participating chapters were: A, Glendive; B, Laurel; C, Kalispell; D, Whitefish; E, Billings; F, Bozeman; G, Butte; H, Missoula; I, Great Falls; J, Lewistown; K, Miles City; L, Hardin; and M, Cut Bank.

Mrs. Elizabeth D. Barnett of Missoula was elected president.

Because of the illness of her husband Mrs. Musser left before the first board meeting. Mrs. Townsend, president of Supreme Chapter, attended the meeting as adviser.

Indiana

P.E.O. in Indiana dates from 1886, being organized as Chapter U on March 26. Not even one alphabet had been completed in all of P.E.O. It was Laura Craven who carried the love of P.E.O. in her heart from Iowa to Indiana. Laura had been visiting in Osceola, Iowa. The P.E.O.'s liked her, called a meeting, voted her in, sent for her and initiated her that night. Laura attended the next meeting then returned to her home in Thorntown, Indiana, and organized Chapter U with seven charter members. Within a year there were 35 members.

For the first few months the chapter was known as a circle, a society, and a coterie. It met twice each week, the meeting place being kept secret. Eventually members rented a hall but with a "no dancing" proviso. Geography, history, and literature were favorite subjects for programs. Two teachers were assigned each meeting and classes were conducted as in school. Each member took a chair from home. The B.I.L.'s furnished desks and lent help in many ways.

It was not by chance that Chapter D, later B, was organized at Knox, Indiana, September 14, 1898, but because Mrs. Anna McCormick moved there from Iowa. She was "steeped" in P.E.O. tradition and soon chose members for a new chapter.

Indiana State Chapter was organized June 28 and 29, 1923, in the Christian Church at Thorntown with Mrs. Belle M. Musser, organizer of Supreme Chapter, presiding, Mrs. Bertha Clark Hughes, president of Supreme Chapter, was present and assisted with the organization.

Participating chapters were: A, Thorntown; B, Knox; C, Kokomo; D, West Lafayette; E, Bicknell; F, Indianapolis; G, Indianapolis; H, New Castle; and I, Greencastle. Mrs. Hughes presented charters to Chapters F, G, H, and I at the convocation.

Mrs. Emma Campbell La Follette, one of the charter members of Chapter A, was elected president.

Florida

The honor of being given the first letter of the P.E.O. alphabet in Florida was decided by transportation facilities. Three potential Chapter A's were ready for the first visit of the organizer of Supreme Chapter. In 1922 Fort Myers was waiting for the organizer who felt the distance she would have to travel should cover organization of more than one chapter.

Fort Myers graciously awaited the assembling of other groups. By March, 1923, two more groups were ready, one in Miami and one in Eustis. Due to some quirk of circumstances, now attributed to transportation problems, the organizer, Mrs. Belle M. Musser, went first to Miami and organized Chapter A, March 30, 1923. Then followed Chapter B, Fort Myers, April 2, and Chapter C, Eustis, April 9.

Florida credits Iowa with pioneering P.E.O. in southeastern United States. Mrs. Carrie F. Mann of Chapter EF, Iowa, was the guiding light of Chapter A; Mrs. Gladys Brainard of Chapter DK, Iowa, energized Chapter B; and Mrs. Kate E. Lapsley, of Chapter O, Iowa, inspired the organization of Chapter C.

Within a few years Chapters D and E followed at Saint Petersburg and Miami due, in part, to the land boom in Florida. The possibility of a state chapter seemed not too far distant. In 1926 Mrs. Carrie F. Mann was appointed proxy organizer in Florida. Alice H. Scott, president of Supreme Chapter, requested that Florida be ready for a convocation the following February, if possible.

Despite the devastating 1926 hurricane, Florida State Chapter was organized March 29 and 30, 1927, at the Miami Woman's Club, by Zora Y. Knight, assisted by Alice H. Scott. It was the first and, for many years, the only state chapter in southeastern United States.

Participating chapters were: A, Miami; B, Fort Myers; C, Eustis; D, Saint Petersburg; E, Miami; F, Sarasota; G, Lake Worth; H, Jacksonville; I, Gainesville; and J, West Palm Beach.

Mrs. Carrie F. Mann of Chapter A was elected president.

Ohio

In the summer of 1910 relatives and friends in Sigourney, Iowa, prevailed upon Julia Bishop to introduce P.E.O. into the state of Ohio. Upon the recommendations of the Needham family and their neighbor, Nannie Torrence Stockman, a past president of Grand Chapter, Mrs. Winona E. Reeves, president of Supreme Chapter, granted Julia permission to select a charter list in her home town of Loveland, Ohio. As a result, Chapter A was organized there June 3, 1911, by Mrs. Edith Prouty, organizer of Supreme Chapter. All nine charter members were initiates.

It was seven years before another chapter appeared in Ohio, and another nine years before there were enough chapters for a state chapter. In 1926 Julia Bishop, who had become Julia Bishop Coleman, was appointed district organizer for Ohio. In June, 1927, she called together representatives of all chapters in the state to discuss the organization of a state chapter. The plan was approved and the members of Chapter A were hostesses for the convocation.

The home of Mrs. Bessie Lee, with its lovely gardens, wide verandas, and great shade trees was an ideal setting for the convocation of Ohio chapters in September, 1927. Mrs. Lee was president of Chapter A. Delegates and guests were entertained in the homes of members of Chapter A.

Ohio State Chapter was organized September 5 and 6, 1927, by Mrs. Zora Y. Knight, organizer of Supreme Chapter, assisted by Mrs. Alice H. Scott, president of Supreme Chapter; Mrs. Hallie Newell, president of Missouri State Chapter; and Mrs. Mary Long, past president of Washington State Chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Loveland; B, Toledo; C, Columbus; D, Cleveland; E, Toledo; F, Wilmington; G, Athens; H, Cincinnati; and I, Toledo.

Julia Bishop Coleman was elected the first president of Ohio State Chapter.

New York

P.E.O. had its New York debut March 8, 1899, when Mrs. Mary Hasbrouck Pratt organized Chapter A at Highland. Mary had been a member of Chapter AN, Humeston, Iowa, until her move to New York. Chapter A was destined to be the only chapter in the state for nine years. Then gradually other chapters appeared – Newark Valley, 1908; New York City, 1911; Ravena, 1911; and Buffalo, 1915.

That was the situation when, in 1921, the president of Supreme Chapter, Mrs. Helen D. Townsend, visited the eastern territory for organization and inspection of chapters in subordinate territory. Mrs. Townsend was substituting for the organizer, Mrs. Belle Musser, who was detained at home by the serious illness of her husband.

Mrs. Townsend appointed Mrs. Inez Callen Bagley of Chapter C, New York City, as organizer for the eastern district. Mrs. Bagley had been a P.E.O. in one of the western states before moving to New York. For six years she worked faithfully until five more chapters were organized in New York.

New York State Chapter was organized September 8 and 9, 1927, in Highland with members of Chapter A as hostesses. Meetings were held in the First Presbyterian Church with Mrs. Zora Y. Knight, organizer of Supreme Chapter, as presiding officer, and Mrs. Alice H. Scott, president of Supreme Chapter, assisting.

Participating chapters were: A, Highland; B, Newark Valley; C, New York City; D, Ravena; E, Buffalo; F, Brooklyn; G, New York City; H, Buffalo; I, Ithaca; and J, Staten Island.

Mrs. Inez Callen Bagley was elected first president of New York State Chapter.

Texas

P.E.O. arrived in Texas on a warm September afternoon in 1902. It was sponsored by Mrs. Mary Florence Cowell. About two years before, Mary Florence and her family had moved from Queen City, Missouri, to Whitesboro, a little town in northern Texas. When she left Missouri she was president of Chapter G and treasurer of Missouri State Chapter.

Mary Florence missed P.E.O. for there were no chapters in Texas. She learned that her good friend, Mrs. Dora Hallock, whose home was in Missouri, was to visit her niece in Texas. Mrs. Hallock, organizer of Supreme Chapter, was invited to visit Mary Florence in Whitesboro. From this visit came the decision to organize Chapter A. Mrs. Cowell chose the charter list and September 4, 1902, Chapter A was organized at her home with Mrs. Cowell as the first president. She soon became known as the "mother of P.E.O. in Texas."

It has been said that Mary Florence Cowell looked like a Dresden doll, but had the faith and wisdom to vision the growth of P.E.O. in Texas. This was demonstrated many times as chapter after chapter was organized in Texas. When there were seven chapters Mary Florence hoped for a state chapter, but was asked to wait a little while since the territory was so large. Growth was slow for P.E.O. was unknown in Texas until Chapter A was organized. Finally there were fourteen chapters and provision was granted to form a state chapter.

Texas State Chapter was organized October 25 and 26, 1928, in the Christian Church at Whitesboro by Miss Katherine Mann, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Members of Chapter A were hostesses. Mrs. Ola B. Miller, president of Supreme Chapter conducted devotions.

Participating chapters were: A, Whitesboro; B, Amarillo; D, El Paso; E, Houston; F, McAllen; G, Fort Worth; H, San Antonio; I, Canadian; J, Mission; K, Dallas; L, San Benito; M, El Paso; N, El Paso; and O, San Antonio.

Mrs. Mary Florence Cowell was elected president.

New Mexico

Mrs. Lu Hughes O'Connor, New Mexico's first state president, tells the story of the memorable day in Carlsbad, January 21, 1909, when Mrs. Whittlesay, second vice president of Supreme Chapter, arrived to organize Chapter A. The letter announcing her arrival had gone astray so she was not met. To complicate things still more, an epidemic of whooping cough had visited five of the seven homes of prospective charter members. Even the box of supplies was incomplete, but at last the meeting was called to order and Chapter A, New Mexico, was organized with five members by dimit and two by initiation.

P.E.O. grew slowly but steadily in New Mexico until there were nine chapters and plans for a state chapter were put into motion.

New Mexico State Chapter was organized April 17 and 18, 1929, in the parlor of the Crawford Hotel at Carlsbad, with Mrs. Hallie A. Newell, organizer of Supreme Chapter, as presiding officer. Mrs. Ola B. Miller, president of Supreme Chapter, was present and addressed the convocation, stressing the qualities that make a good member. She also spoke of Cottey College, that being the first biennium of its ownership by P.E.O.

Participating chapters were: A, Carlsbad; B, Roswell; C, Gallup; D, Tucumcari; E, Albuquerque; F, Santa Fe; G, Clovis; H, Las Vegas; I, Las Cruces; J, Artesia; K, Roswell.

Mrs. Lu Hughes O'Connor of Chapter A, Carlsbad, was elected the first president of New Mexico State Chapter.

Arizona

Mrs. Faith F. McKee moved from Memphis, Missouri, via Riverside, California, to Phoenix, Arizona, in 1910. Faith was knowledgeable in the ways of P.E.O. having been president of her Chapter C in Missouri, and organizer and treasurer of Missouri State Chapter.

Arizona had no P.E.O. chapters, although the state was growing in population and in importance as a health area. Officers of Supreme

Chapter sent Mrs. McKee a list of fifteen P.E.O.'s living in or near Phoenix and asked her to explore the possibilities of a P.E.O. chapter there. Reasons of health or temporary residence eliminated all except four of the fifteen prospective members. From this nucleus grew the membership of Chapter A which was organized June 14, 1912, in the home of Faith McKee at Phoenix by Miss Edith Prouty, organizer of Supreme Chapter.

It was nineteen years and ten chapters later before a state organization was considered for Arizona. The convocation was held at Phoenix where Arizona State Chapter was organized April 17 and 18, 1931, by Mrs. Hallie A. Newell, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Edith Markham Wallace, president of Supreme Chapter, assisted with the organization and spoke at the evening meeting to which B.I.L.'s were invited.

Participating chapters were: A, Phoenix; B, Tucson; C, Glendale; D, Phoenix; E, Tucson; F, Tempe; G, Flagstaff; H, Phoenix; I, Jerome; J, Tucson; and K, Mesa.

Mrs. Faith K. McKee was elected president of the new Arizona State Chapter.

Arkansas

It was Jessie Mallory Thayer of Chariton, Iowa, who was responsible for the organization of the first chapter in Arkansas. She was not an officer of Grand Chapter at the time, but was a visitor in Arkansas. She became president of Supreme Grand Chapter the following year.

Chapter AZ, later A, Arkansas, was organized at Eureka Springs February 15, 1892. It was the first chapter to be organized in a southern state and was the only one for ten years. In the history box of Chapter A is a letter from Alice Bird Babb; a copy of the first printed constitution, adopted in 1893; a white and gold history, the first issue; Chapter AZ's charter from Grand Chapter; a white apron with bands of yellow across the bottom and a star on the pocket; and a large electrotype star.

Arkansas State Chapter was organized February 16 and 17, 1933, forty years and a day after Chapter A was formed at Eureka Springs.

The convocation was held at the Hotel Goldman in Fort Smith, Arkansas, with members of Chapters F and J as hostesses. Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, organizer of Supreme Chapter was the presiding officer, assisted by Mrs. Zora Y. Knight, president of Supreme Chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Eureka Springs; B, DeQueen; C, Little Rock; D, Blytheville; E, Conway; F, Fort Smith; G, Spring Dale; H, Harrison; I, Little Rock; J, Fort Smith; and K, Fayetteville.

Mrs. Bertha L. Sanders was elected first president of Arkansas State Chapter.

District of Columbia

The inception of P.E.O. in the District of Columbia was through Chapter E (old lettering) organized in Washington April 5, 1887, by Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers, president of Grand Chapter. Though far from the center of P.E.O. activities, Chapter E was a busy, active chapter for six years. Marriage of members and subsequent changes of residence disrupted chapter activities and eventually caused Chapter E to disband in 1893.

Miss Fannie Roseman was living in Washington, D.C., in 1900 when her friend, Miss Lillian Ayers of Chapter V, Des Moines, Iowa, encouraged her to organize a P.E.O. chapter there. Chapter A was organized May 29, 1900, in the Homiller homestead in Washington by Mrs. Siddie P. Richards, proxy organizer, with Fannie Roseman and seven of her friends as charter members. One, Miss Iowa Hampson, was received by dimit from Chapter C, Fairfield, Iowa.

Chapters A, B, C, D, and E had been organized in Washington when, in September, 1919, a cooperative committee was formed composed of the president and one delegate from each chapter. The committee met once each month to discuss the various chapter activities. In 1920 the group changed to four meetings a year: October, December, February, and April.

The District of Columbia Chapter was organized July 2 and 3, 1935, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, organizer of Supreme Chapter, assisted by Miss Mable Davenport Doud, president. Chapter B served as hostess for the convocation.

Participating Chapters were: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K, all of Washington, D.C.

A feature of the convocation was two-minute talks given by the presidents of the eleven chapters. Chapter K, organized in May, 1935, received its charter.

Mrs. Laura V. D. Hanson was elected president of the uniquely titled District of Columbia chapter.

Utah

P.E.O. was taken into Utah January 13, 1900, with the organization of Chapter A, Salt Lake City. Mrs. Minnie Osgood Smythe, proxy organizer for Mrs. Julia N. Robinson, organized the chapter. One of the P.E.O. founders, Mrs. Franc Roads Elliott, was teaching in Utah and helped with the preliminary work of organization. Apparently growth was no problem. At one meeting, during the first year, seventeen names were voted upon.

Unusual interests sponsored by the group were movements for the establishment of juvenile courts, suppression of crime notoriety, child welfare, and city cleanliness.

Chapter A was the only chapter in Utah for twenty years.

About 1920, Mrs. Grace Gove was appointed district organizer for Utah by the executive board of Supreme Chapter. She served through several bienniums and helped arrange for the organization of most of the eleven chapters organized before 1935.

Utah State Chapter was organized August 15 and 16, 1935, at the Ladies' Literary Club in Salt Lake City by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, organizer of Supreme Chapter, assisted by Mrs. Hallie A. Newell, first vice president of Supreme Chapter. By that time, convocations had assumed many of the features of a state convention: registration, memorial hour, model meeting, a welcome and response, a question box, a banquet, election of officers, but primarily, instructions for the new chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Salt Lake City; B, Price; C, Vernal; D, Salt Lake City; E, Salt Lake City; F, Ogden; G, Tooele; H, Salt Lake City; I, Salt Lake City; J, Ogden; and K, Salt Lake City.

There were 133 persons registered for the convocation, nine from other states. Mrs. Leah P. Whiteley was elected president.

Pennsylvania

P.E.O. in Pennsylvania owes its origin to Miss Minnetta E. Hice who went from Iowa to New Castle, Pennsylvania. She remembered P.E.O.'s in Iowa who were "so nice and had so much fun" that Minnetta had the desire to become a P.E.O. and so inspired her friends.

On October 27, 1902, Mrs. Dora Hallock, organizer of Supreme Grand Chapter, as it was called then, organized Chapter A at New Castle, Pennsylvania. There were eight initiates. Five of the eight were teachers.

It was ten years before Chapter B was organized and another fourteen years before Chapter C became a reality. After that chapters developed more rapidly.

Pennsylvania State Chapter was organized July 5 and 6, 1938, at the First Presbyterian Church in New Castle, with Chapter A as the hostess chapter. Mrs. Carrie B. Simpson, organizer of Supreme Chapter, was the presiding officer. She was assisted by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, president of Supreme Chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, New Castle; B, Pittsburgh; C, Indiana; D, Mansfield; E, Philadelphia; F, Pittsburgh; H, Philadelphia; and I, Philadelphia.

Mrs. Myfanwa McNeill of Chapter A was installed as president by Mrs. Wright.

Masschusetts

Arda Purdy and Enid Strickler Botsford were the two young women who introduced P.E.O. into New England by organizing

Chapter A in Boston. An interview with Enid at Atlantic City in 1965 yielded this story.

Enid was initiated into her mother's chapter, AJ, Topeka, Kansas in June, 1914. In January, 1917, she moved to Boston as the bride of Edward Bliss Botsford, who was a purchasing agent for Swift and Company. One day Enid received a telephone call from Arda, Mrs. J. F. Davis, a P.E.O. from Iowa. Arda had written to an officer of Supreme Chapter for names of P.E.O.'s in Boston. Enid's name was on the list. The two young women, who lived near each other, became good friends and often wished for a P.E.O. chapter in Boston. Eventually they decided to do something about it. They were sent a list of names of P.E.O.'s in the area and some copies of The P.E.O. Record to use in contacting prospective members.

But Boston is a large city and neither girl had a car. They would take a lunch with them and start out by train or trolley to find a P.E.O. Many on their list had left Boston. Several were located and were interested. Then began the work of explaining P.E.O. to those whom they wanted as initiates, no easy task in an area where P.E.O. was unknown.

A central place for meeting was arranged first in a conference room at Boston University, then at the Boston Women's City Club, on famed Beacon Street. After one postponement, the day of organization was set for March 5, 1921, at the home of Enid Botsford.

Early that morning Enid answered the telephone to be told by Arda's husband that Arda had been called out of town because of a death in the family. He had met the guest of honor, Mrs. Helen B. Townsend, president of Supreme Chapter, and had left her at the hotel according to Arda's instructions. He also promised to have Arda's cake at Enid's home in time for the luncheon. From then on the organization proceeded as planned. Enid was elected president. As soon as Arda returned she was taken into the chapter by dimit and elected vice president, Mrs. Lula Murphy having filled the office temporarily.

Massachusetts State Chapter was organized June 26 and 27, 1940, at Boston by Mrs. Dorothy L. Weller, organizer of Supreme Chapter, with Chapter A as the hostess chapter. Mrs. Veda M. Jones, president of Supreme Chapter, was an honor guest and assisted with the organization.

Participating chapters were: A, Boston; B, Cambridge; C, Belmont; D, Boston; E, Boston; F, Pittsfield; G, Winchester; H, Cambridge; I, Somerville; J, Boston; and K, Newton.

It was a carefully planned and well executed convocation. Mrs. Maude W. Stearns was elected president.

New Jersey

Mrs. Hearty Carle became a P.E.O. in Seattle, Washington, in 1911; moved to New Jersey in 1912; and eventually became a member of Chapter C in New York. One day when Hearty and a neighbor, Elizabeth Butcher, were on their way home from a meeting of Chapter C, Hearty said to Elizabeth, "Let's form a chapter in Newark." According to Hearty, "That's how it began."

Mrs. Carle wrote to her friend Mrs. Grace Runyan Parks who, as president of Supreme Chapter, had notified P.E.O.'s in the New York area of Mrs. Carle's arrival in New Jersey.

Chapter C, New York, sponsored the new chapter and May 19, 1917, Mrs. Hallie A. Newell, district organizer, organized Chapter A, New Jersey, at the home of Mrs. Hearty Carle. Mrs. Carle was elected president and Mrs. Butcher corresponding secretary.

It was a quarter of a century before New Jersey had a state chapter. On June 22 and 23, 1942 New Jersey State Chapter was organized at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark by Mrs. Bessie Raney, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Other honor guests were Mrs. Blanche D. Walker, president of Supreme Chapter; Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves, editor of The P.E.O. Record; and Mrs. Lucille Shields, a member of the board of trustees, The P.E.O. Record.

Mrs. Nina T. Hughes was elected the first president of New Jersey State Chapter. Mrs. Elizabeth Butcher, who was elected first vice president, was one of the charter members of Chapter A. Mrs. Uretta Hinkhouse, elected as organizer, later became president of Supreme Chapter. Mrs. Hinkhouse died while serving in that capacity.

Louisiana

Early in the 1920's Shreveport, Louisiana, was the meeting place for four P.E.O.'s: Nettie M. Flesher, E, Colorado; Maude C. Smith, B, Missouri; Lucille Davies, J, Missouri; and Elsie M. Freeman, M, Missouri. With the help of Nellie J. Stewart of Louisiana they selected a charter list of seventeen members. On May 15, 1922, Chapter A was organized in the home of Nettie Flesher at Shreveport, and P.E.O. was firmly established in Louisiana.

By 1946 Louisiana chapters were thinking in terms of a state chapter. Mrs. Mabel Scurrah was organizer of Supreme Chapter. She inspected the eleven Louisiana chapters in January, 1946, carrying with her a petition for a state chapter. The organization and duties of a state chapter were explained to each local chapter. Mrs. Scurrah was gratified to find the members ready "for the forward step," with each local chapter president signing the petition.

It had become customary procedure for a convocation meeting to follow rather closely the pattern of state conventions with convocation committees, a general chairman, and with the organizer assuming many of the responsibilities of a state president in planning and executing the program.

Louisiana State Chapter was organized October 30 and 31, 1946, at Shreveport by Mrs. Mabel Scurrah, with members of Chapters A, B, and F as hostesses. Mrs. Norma Stevens served as general chairman. Mrs. Dorothy L. Weller, president of Supreme Chapter, assisted with the organization.

Participating chapters were: A, Shreveport; B, Shreveport; C, Baton Rouge; D, Arcadia; E, Baton Rouge; F, Shreveport; G, New Orleans; H, New Orleans; I, Natchitoches, J, Gretna; K, Baton Rouge; and L, Lafayette, organized October 28.

Mrs. Mary Eidson was elected president, Mrs. Norma Stevens, first vice president.

Nevada

P.E.O. had its beginning in Nevada when Chapter A was organized at Elko November 7, 1916, by Mrs. Olga Iddiols, organizer of Supreme Chapter. The meeting was held in the upper parlor of the Mayer Hotel. There were nine charter members. Two others had been chosen with the charter group but were unable to be present for the organization.

Early in 1946 Eva Ogilvie, president of Chapter A, Elko, wrote to Mrs. Mabel Scurrah, then organizer of Supreme Chapter, and asked permission to write to chapters in Nevada suggesting the organization of a state chapter. Permission was granted.

When the chapters in northern Nevada were inspected in March, 1946, a petition for state organization was presented to them and was signed by all of the presidents. Chapters G and K in the southern part of the state were not inspected until just before the convocation but were contacted by mail.

Nevada State Chapter was organized November 8 and 9, 1946, in Elko with Eva Ogilvie as general chairman and Chapter A as hostess chapter. Mrs. Scurrah was the presiding officer assisted by Mrs. Dorothy L. Weller, president of Supreme Chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Elko; B, Reno; C, Ely; D, Fallon; F, Reno; G, Las Vegas; H, Carson City; I, Sparks; J, Reno; and K, Boulder City.

Mrs. Eva Ogilvie was elected president of the new state chapter.

Virginia

It was Mrs. Dorothy Church Weick and Mrs. Nellie H. Miller who introduced P.E.O. to Virginia. They discovered over coffee that they were both P.E.O.'s and decided that Hampton needed a chapter.

Dorothy was granted the privilege of selecting the charter list and Chapter A, Hampton, was organized May 4, 1927, by Mrs. Zora Y. Knight, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Dorothy is the daughter of Mrs. Katherine E. Church, a past president of Illinois State Chapter and one of the early trustees of Cottey College. Mrs. Dorothy Church Weick was elected the first president.

Virginia State Chapter was organized June 29 and 30, 1949, in the famous Chamberlin Hotel at Old Point Comfort. Mrs. Gertrude Porter Tomhave, organizer of Supreme Chapter, was the presiding officer, assisted by Mrs. Bessie R. Raney, president. Mrs. Weick and Mrs. Miller were honor guests at the convocation. Mrs. Weick traveled from Texas to Virginia to attend.

Participating chapters were: A, Hampton; B, Hampton; C, Richmond; D, Arlington; E, Falls Church; F, Hampton; G, Alexandria; H, Radford; I, Hampton; J, Alexandria; K, Falls Church; L, Norfolk; and M, Richmond.

Guests and messages came from far and near, with registration numbering about one hundred and fifty.

Mrs. Jeannette McDonald became the first president.

Manitoba

A childhood friend from Iowa visited Mrs. May C. Blakert in Selkirk, Manitoba, in 1924. Upon returning to Spencer, Iowa, Mrs. Corey who was a member of Chapter AT, wrote to Mrs. Blackert about a lovely organization called P.E.O. and encouraged her to choose a charter list for a chapter in Selkirk. Chapter AT agreed to sponsor the group.

Mrs. Blackert consulted with her friend, Mrs. Evelyn Simpson, and they chose sixteen enthusiastic prospective members they felt had the desirable qualities. Mrs. Zora Y. Knight, organizer of Supreme Chapter, organized Chapter A, Manitoba, on September 21, 1926. According to the history of Chapter A, "She did her work well, and she left a group of women inspired to seek the heights."

Manitoba Provincial Chapter was organized June 22 and 23, 1951, by Mrs. Leah S. Shirey, organizer of Supreme Chapter, with members of Chapter A as hostesses. Meetings were held in the Daerwood School auditorium in Selkirk. Because the meeting of the executive board of Supreme Chapter was called at that time, the entire board was able to attend the convocation. Mrs. Dorothy L. Weller, past president of Supreme Chapter, was a guest also.

Participating chapters were: A, Selkirk; B, C, D, E, F, Winnipeg; G, Selkirk; H, Winnipeg; I, Transcona; J, K, Winnipeg; and L, Transcona.

Mrs. Evelyn Simpson of Chapter J was elected president.

British Columbia

Several years before the first chapter was organized in Canada, Bertha O. Clarke was living in Bellingham, Washington. She was invited to become a member of Chapter F, Bellingham, but when the invitation reached her she and her family were in the process of moving back to Vancouver, British Columbia. Mrs. Clarke was keenly disappointed to miss initiation into P.E.O. by so close a margin, yet because of that incident, P.E.O. soon crossed the border into the Dominion of Canada.

Chapter F, Bellingham, offered to sponsor a chapter in Vancouver if permission could be granted for Mrs. Bertha O. Clarke to choose the charter list. The question was discussed in the executive board meeting that preceded the 1907 convention of Supreme Chapter. Because of other important legislation pending, the board decided it would be better to refer the question of carrying P.E.O. into Canada to the next administration.

Bertha O. Clarke

The 1911 convention, at which Winona E. Reeves presided, granted permission for Mrs. Clarke to choose the charter list in Vancouver. According to Mrs. Clarke the seven women she chose for charter members accepted much on faith. "They had never seen a constitution, The P.E.O. Record, or anything pertaining to P.E.O."

The date of organization was set for August 28, 1911. Miss Edith Prouty, organizer of Supreme Chapter, arrived the day before. Officers from Chapter F in Bellingham, fifty miles away, were to assist with the organization. They arrived by train at seven-thirty the morning of the organization. In response to a telephone call the night before, they brought necessary supplies with them, since supplies of Chapter A had not yet arrived. Breakfast awaited them at the home of Bertha Clarke where, at ten-thirty, the meeting for the organization of Chapter A was called to order. Supplies arrived during the luncheon hour. Soon they were cleared through customs and were used for the business meeting that afternoon.

Bertha Clarke was the first president of Chapter A and for many years served as district organizer in Canada. Eventually, nine chapters came into being.

The Provincial Chapter of British Columbia was organized June 19, 1925 at Vancouver, in the assembly hall at Killarney, Point Grey Road, with members of Chapter C as hostesses. Mrs. Ola Babcock Miller, organizer of Supreme Chapter, was the presiding officer and was assisted by Mrs. Vina Ives Bowden, president of Supreme Chapter. Many visitors and honored guests attended, making a total enrollment of 123.

Participating chapters were: A, Vancouver; B, New Westminster; C, Vancouver; D, Vancouver; E, Victoria; F, Vancouver; G, New Westminster; H, Vancouver; and I, Victoria.

Mrs. Bertha O. Clarke was elected president of the first provincial chapter.

When the convention of Supreme Chapter met in Washington, D.C., in 1961, one of the programs commemorated fifty years of P.E.O. in Canada.

Georgia

Chapter A, Georgia, was organized on February 16, 1935, by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, organizer of Supreme Chapter. There were eleven charter members by dimit and one by initiation. Dimiting members were from ten states. The initiate was Lela Hartford, mother of Dorothy Jean Robertson, president of Georgia State Chapter, 1967-1968. The convocation of Georgia State Chapter was entertained by Chapter A and dedicated to the charter members of Chapter A.

Georgia State Chapter was organized June 21 and 22, 1955, at the Hotel Briarcliff in Atlanta with Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey presiding. Other honor guests in attendance were Mrs. Gertrude Porter Tomhave, president of Supreme Chapter, and Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard, second vice president. Both addressed the convocation.

Participating chapters were: A, Atlanta; B, Atlanta; C, Atlanta; D, Atlanta; E, Rome; F, Atlanta; G, Atlanta; H, Atlanta; and I, Macon.

Mrs. LeVerne Sturmer, Atlanta, was elected president.

There were two delegates from each of the nine chapters. Seven of them from six chapters have served as president of Georgia State Chapter.

Ontario

Chapter A, Ontario, might be called a descendant of Bertha O. Clarke, the founder of P.E.O. in Canada. Bertha's niece, Rae Welsh, sponsored Chapter L in New Westminster. Two sisters, Bessie Hudson and Ivy Hudson Kerr, were initiated into Chapter L. Later Rae, Bessie and Ivy were living in Toronto. It was natural that they should think of organizing a P.E.O. chapter in Toronto.

In September, 1933, they received a letter from Eva McDuffee, a past president of British Columbia Provincial Chapter. Eva asked them to get in touch with Ruby Hamilton who had lived in Vancouver while teaching her year on exchange from Toronto. Eva recommended Ruby as P.E.O. material and thought the four might work together to form a chapter. They found Ruby "brimming over with vitality and exuberance." Meetings were held and soon Eva McDuffee visited in Toronto. Her inspiration and information soon resulted in direct plans for organization. Chapter A, Ontario, was organized February 6, 1934, by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, organizer of Supreme Chapter.

Ontario Provincial Chapter was organized June 24 and 25, 1955, by Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Honor guests who also lent assistance were Mrs. Gertrude Porter Tomhave, president of Supreme Chapter, and Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, recording secretary.

Meetings were held in Saint James Bond United Church, with Chapter A as the hostess chapter. The convocation was dedicated to Eva McDuffee of Chapter A, British Columbia, who had been the inspiration and guiding light in taking P.E.O. to Ontario.

Participating chapters were: A, Toronto; B, Toronto; C, Toronto; E, Toronto; F, Toronto; G, London; H, Hamilton; I, Toronto; and J, Ottawa.

Miss Louise Marshall was elected the first president of Ontario Provincial Chapter.

Kentucky

The beginnings of P.E.O. in Kentucky may be traced directly to Mrs. Gladys H. Goodell. When Gladys was a member of Chapter FY, Iowa, she participated in a Founders' Day Program in which she spoke of Alice Virginia Coffin, one of the P.E.O. founders. Some time later, Mrs. Goodell and her husband moved to Louisville, Kentucky. She felt that Louisville, the birthplace of Alice Coffin, should certainly be represented in P.E.O. So it was that March 28, 1930, Chapter A, Kentucky was organized by Mrs. Hallie Newell, organizer of Supreme Chapter, in the home of Mrs. Mabel Reesor. Gladys Goodell was the first president.

P.E.O. grew slowly but steadily in Kentucky. It was slightly more than a quarter of a century before a state chapter came to be.

Kentucky State Chapter was organized November 9 and 10, 1956, in the Band Room of the Kosair Temple in Louisville. Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, organizer of Supreme Chapter, presided. Five other members of the executive board were in attendance: Mrs. Nell Farrell Stevenson, president; Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard, first vice president; Mrs. Margaret Emily Stoner, second vice president; Mrs. Beulah M. Thorton, recording secretary; and Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, corresponding secretary. Mrs. Gertrude Crawford, president of Ohio State Chapter, was the other guest of honor.

Participating chapters were: A, Louisville; B, Louisville; C, Lexington; D, Bowling Green; E, Louisville; F, Lexington; G, Prestonburg; H, Louisville; I, Danville; J, Lexington; and K, Lexington.

Mrs. Ethel Miller Read of Chapter A served as the first president.

Tennessee

Chapter A, Memphis, was organized October 10, 1934, by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, organizer of Supreme Chapter. There were 12 charter members, and Mrs. Alma Clark was elected the first president.

Early in the history of Chapter A, the B.I.L.'s took an active interest in P.E.O. activities. This has become one of the traditions of Chapter A, with annual Christmas parties and spring picnics honoring the B.I.L.'s.

The convocation for the organization of Tennessee State Chapter was set for November 15 and 16, 1956, in Memphis, with members of Chapter A as hostesses. Meetings were held in the Education Building of the Lindenwood Christian Church. Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, organizer of Supreme Chapter, presided. Other members of the executive board in attendance were: Mrs. Nell Farrell Stevenson, president; Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard, first vice president; Mrs. Beulah M. Thornton, recording secretary; and Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, corresponding secretary.

Participating chapters were: A, Memphis; B, Memphis; C, Nashville; D, Knoxville; E, Nashville; F, Memphis; G, Oak Ridge; H, Nashville; I, Memphis; J, Knoxville; and K, Memphis.

Members of Chapter F, who presented the model meeting, had also given the model meeting the year before at the convention of Supreme Chapter in Indianapolis. Mrs. Gertrude Tomhave presided at that convention. She had organized Chapter F when she was organizer of Supreme Chapter.

Mrs. Helen Hays Hutton, Chapter B, was elected the first president of Tennessee State Chapter. Helen had also served as president of South Dakota State Chapter in 1937-1938. Serving two different state chapters as president is indeed a rare historical fact. The only other instance on record was Mrs. Charlotte T. Moffatt who served as president of Minnesota State Chapter in 1913-1914, and Iowa State Chapter in 1924-1925.

Alabama

Two P.E.O.'s living in Auburn, Alabama, were instrumental in organizing the first chapter in Alabama March 24, 1930: Stella Knapp of Chapter BU, Oklahoma, and Harriet Seal of Chapter I, Florida. Chapter A, Auburn, was organized in the home of Stella Knapp whose husband was president of Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Mrs. Hallie Newell, organizer of Supreme Chapter, organized Chapter A with the two members by dimit and 12 initiates. In 1942, when Mrs. Bessie Raney was organizer of Supreme Chapter, she asked the officers of Chapter A to assist with the organization of Chapter B at Birmingham. Tires and gasoline were scarce so a drive-it-yourself car was rented for the trip.

Alabama State Chapter was organized at Auburn January 8, 1959, by Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, organizer of Supreme Chapter, assisted by Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard, president of Supreme Chapter and Mrs. Uretta Hinkhouse, third vice president. Chapter A was the hostess chapter.

Participating chapters were: A, Auburn; B, Birmingham; C, Mobile; D, Birmingham; E, Auburn; F, Birmingham; G, Montgomery; H, Mobile; I, Tuscaloosa; and J, Huntsville.

Mrs. Harriette E. Chadwick was elected first president of Alabama State Chapter.

Connecticut

There were four unaffiliated P.E.O.'s living in New Haven in 1934 who decided to do something about a P.E.O. chapter there. They chose the charter list and May 19, 1934, Chapter A, New Haven, Connecticut, was organized by Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright, organizer of Supreme Chapter.

The new members must have been well chosen and well oriented for after thirty-four years Chapter A remains an active and growing chapter.

Connecticut State Chapter was sponsored by Chapter A and was organized April 28 and 29, 1959, by Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Meetings were held at Restland Farms, Northford, Connecticut, with Chapter A as hostess Chapter. Honor guests were Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard, president of Supreme Chapter, and Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, third vice president. Mrs. Rinehard addressed the convocation.

The theme for the convocation was the Connecticut state motto, *Qui Transtulit Sustinet*—"He Who Transplanted Still Sustains."

Mrs. Ruby Engleman gave the keynote address. She was a past president of both Chapters A and C, Connecticut.

Participating chapters were: A, New Haven; B, Westport; C, Hamden; D, West Hartford; E, Stamford; F, Norwalk; G, Ridgefield; and H, Fairfield.

Mrs. Virginia H. Trafton was elected president.

Maryland

Two P.E.O.'s from Minnesota, Lena Ender and Clara Grimsley, were responsible for the organization of the first chapter in Maryland, Chapter A, Baltimore.

Mrs. Ola B. Miller, organizer of Supreme Chapter, organized Chapter A, May 6, 1924 with 13 charter members. In 1924 the neighboring city of Washington, D.C., had seven chapters. Presidents were invited to the organization of the Baltimore chapter, and six of the Washington chapters were represented.

P.E.O. grew slowly in Maryland, but in 1959 Maryland chapters, led by Chapter A, petitioned for a Maryland State Chapter. A dispensation was granted by the executive board and Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, organizer of Supreme Chapter, issued the call for a convocation. Plans were set in motion, but convention of Supreme Chapter was near and organization had to wait for the next biennium.

Maryland State Chapter was organized November 11 and 12, 1959, in the First Methodist Church of Towson, by Mrs. Amy O. Welch, the new organizer of Supreme Chapter. Three other members of the executive board were present: Mrs. Margaret Emily Stoner, president; Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, second vice president; and Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, third vice president.

Participating chapters were: A, Baltimore; B, Chevy Chase; C, Baltimore; D, Baltimore; E, Baltimore; F, Towson; G, Glen Burnie; H, Aberdeen; I, Hagerstown; and J. Bethesda.

Mrs. Dorothy Welsh Hamilton was elected president.

North Carolina

Chapter A, Greensboro, was organized December 19, 1929, by Mrs. Hallie A. Newell, organizer of Supreme Chapter, with seven members by dimit and eight initiates. Mrs. Mildred Kennedy from Chapter K. Wisconsin, was given the credit for instigating the organization, and was elected its first president.

They were talented and dedicated women who fit well into the many patterns of P.E.O. In 1955 they sponsored Chapter F in Chapel Hill, a chapter much like their own, with university ties. In 1961 nine members of Chapter A dimitted to help form the new Chapter J in Greensboro, organized the year before North Carolina State Chapter.

North Carolina State Chapter was organized March 24 and 25, 1962, by Mrs. Ethel O. Gardner, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Four other members of the executive board attended the convocation: Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey, president; Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse; first vice president; Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, second vice president; Mrs. Amy O. Welch, third vice president; and Mrs. Irene Kerr, corresponding secretary. Meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Greensboro, with Chapters A and J as co-sponsors and co-hostesses.

Participating chapters were: A, Greensboro; B, Hendersonville; C, Charlotte; H, Hendersonville; I, Raleigh; J, Greensboro; and K, Gastonia.

Mrs. Evelyn H. Garrison was chosen president.

West Virginia

Chapter A, West Virginia, was organized in Buckhannon June 28, 1915, by Mrs. Helen M. Drake, organizer of Supreme Chapter. The charter list was compiled by Mrs. Lucretia Eldridge, a western woman, not a P.E.O. but one rich in P.E.O. traditions. Her husband was head of the Department of Music at West Virginia Wesleyan College. Mrs. Eldridge was the first president of Chapter A.

Nearly a half century passed before West Virginia organized the 45th state chapter. West Virginia State Chapter was organized May 8 and 9, 1962, in the First Baptist Church at Buckhannon, by Mrs. Ethel O. Gardner, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Chapter A entertained the convocation. Guests of the convocation who also appeared on the program were: Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey, president of Supreme Chapter; Mrs. Laurene R. Harvey, chairman of the board of trustees, Educational Fund; and Miss Margaret Rommel, member of the board of trustees, P.E.O. Foundation.

Participating chapters were: A, Buckhannon; B, Morgantown; C, Philippi; D, Fairmont; E, Huntington; F, Lewisburg; G, Parkersburg; H, Charleston; I, Huntington; and J, Wheeling.

Mrs. Rita Terry was chosen as the first president of West Virginia State Chapter.

Alberta

Mrs. Gertie Greer is credited with instigating plans for the organization of Chapter A, Edmonton, the first chapter organized in the province of Alberta, Canada. Mrs. Laura Storms Knapp was the presiding officer and organized the chapter November 7, 1944. Sixteen names comprised the charter list with Mrs. Jennie Lindsay the only member by dimit. Jennie became the first president of Chapter A. She attended the convention of Supreme Chapter in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1945, where she received the charter for her chapter.

The theme for Chapter A's first yearbook was World Brotherhood, a significant theme for wartime with the United Nations Charter signed in 1945.

Alberta Provincial Chapter was organized May 24 and 25, 1963, in Saint Paul's United Church of Edmonton, by Mrs. Ethel O.

Gardner, organizer of Supreme Chapter. Other members of the executive board in attendance were Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey, president, and Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, second vice president. Mrs. Mabel Scurrah of Victoria, British Columbia, gave the keynote address. Mrs. Scurrah is a past president of Supreme Chapter. Chapter A was the hostess chapter for the convocation, which was dedicated to Mrs. Greer.

Participating chapters were: A, Edmonton; B, Calgary; C, D, and E, Edmonton; F, Calgary; G, Drumheller; H, Edmonton; and I, Calgary.

Mrs. Bertha H. Duncan became the first president.

The beautiful mural in Saint Paul's United Church was painted by a P.E.O., Elva Fredricking, of Chapter D.

Mississippi

As a young girl, Mrs. Jessie Tonner Warner had a teacher who wore a large gold star. It was from this association that she dreamed of someday being a P.E.O. But it was many years before she lived in a town where there was a P.E.O. chapter, and when her invitation to become a member reached her, she was preparing to move to Biloxi. Later when she noticed an ad in The Biloxi Herald asking that anyone interested in P.E.O. contact Mrs. Emma Moon, a winter visitor, and a member of Chapter CN, Iowa, Jessie immediately went to see her. She was given permission to choose the charter list by Chapter AR, Urbana, Illinois. The subsequent organization of Chapter A at Biloxi May 15, 1929, was the answer to a school girl's dream. There were twelve charter members—all initiates. Jessie Warner became the first president.

Mississippi State Chapter was organized in Jackson, Mississippi, March 13 and 14, 1967, with chapters F and G as hostess chapters. Mrs. Florence M. Wallace, organizer of Supreme Chapter, presided. Other members of the executive board in attendance were: Mrs. Amy O. Welch, president; Mrs. Ethel O. Gardner, first vice president; Mrs. Irene Kerr, second vice president; and Mrs. Irene M. Snell, recording secretary.

Participating chapters were: A, Biloxi; B, Gulfport; C, Pascagoula; D, Biloxi; E, Biloxi; F, Jackson; G, Jackson; H, Gulfport; and I, Oxford.

Mrs. Gene S. Corban was chosen as the first president of Mississippi State Chapter.

Mississippi completes the list of state, district, and provincial chapters to January 1, 1968. In addition to these, there are local chapters in the eight remaining states: Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Vermont. In Canada, the province of Quebec has three chapters, and Saskatchewan two.

Alaska, with eleven chapters, may very well be the next state chapter organized. Delaware with eight chapters, and Hawaii with seven, could soon have state chapters.

Hawaii

Hawaii bears special mention here because its seven chapters are the only ones organized off the mainland of North America. It was not a simple matter to organize that first chapter in Honolulu, in the Territory of Hawaii, in 1930.

To Dorothy Ellen Cole belongs the distinction of creating interest in a chapter in Hawaii. To her, also, must go the credit for handling many of the necessary details, including correspondence over a span of years.

Dorothy Ellen had been a P.E.O. in Chapter A, Chicago. Later she was a member of Chapter FE, Los Angeles. Her next move took her to Honolulu where she and other P.E.O.'s met often, talked of P.E.O., and longed for a chapter in Honolulu. They, and similar clusters of individuals, were forerunners of the P.E.O. Groups authorized by the 1965 convention of Supreme Chapter. In due time contacts were made with the executive board of Supreme Chapter. Correspondence continued for many months before difficulties were cleared and permission granted for the chapter off the mainland.

Mrs. Hallie A. Newell, organizer of Supreme Chapter, arrived in Honolulu July 11, 1930, the day before the date set for organization. Hawaiians are noted for their charming and delightful hospitality, generously and lovingly given. Hallie arrived literally covered with leis. She was taken to the beautiful old hotel, the Halekulani, where she was to be entertained and where numerous social functions were held in her honor.

Dorothy Ellen chose the charter list of seventeen, and in her home, high on a hillside overlooking the Pacific, Chapter A, Honolulu, was organized April 12, 1930. Dorothy Ellen became the first president.

21 P.E.O. Foundation

The establishment of the P.E.O. Foundation as an entity within the P.E.O. Sisterhood was a significant act of progress that promises a long-range impact on the activities of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The P.E.O. Foundation was established October 4, 1961, by action of the convention of Supreme Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Its purpose is to provide an effective vehicle through which tax-exempt gifts, bequests, and devises may be received for the educational and charitable projects of the sisterhood.

On September 7, 1962, the United States Internal Revenue Service granted exemption to the P.E.O. Foundation as an organization described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding provisions of later Acts. After receiving this exemption the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Foundation: chairman, Mrs. Hazel Wood, past president of Texas State Chapter; second member, Miss Margaret Rommel, past president District of Columbia Chapter; third member, Mrs. Olive Carlson, past president of Illinois State Chapter, together with its appointed adviser, Dorothy L. Weller, past president Supreme Chapter, began drafting procedures and policies, rules of administration, and forms, for effective administration of the P.E.O. Foundation. Effort was made to have the Foundation function within the framework and policies of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and yet conform in all respects to the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

Provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the P.E.O. Sisterhood that insure the organization of the Foundation within the framework of Supreme Chapter include: the election of the trustees of the Foundation by the officers of Supreme Chapter; and the approval by the executive board of Supreme Chapter of the procedures and policies formulated by the trustees of the P.E.O. Foundation. Yet, the necessary line of separation of the two is insured by providing that:

none of the income of the P.E.O. Foundation shall be used for the general purposes of the Supreme, state, or local P.E.O. chapters; and the books and accounts of the Foundation shall be kept separate and apart from the books and accounts of other funds of the Supreme, state and local chapters.

A most important step taken by the trustees of the P.E.O. Foundation in the 1963-1965 biennium was to establish a P.E.O. Foundation Investment Account with the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago. This account consists of gifts, bequests, and devises which are to be held by the P.E.O. Foundation in perpetuity, the earned income being disbursed by the trustees in accordance with the stipulations of the donors. The Finance Committee of Supreme Chapter acts for this account as it does for investment accounts of Supreme Chapter.

The next step in completing the organization of the P.E.O. Foundation was incorporation as a non-profit Delaware corporation on February 28, 1966. The three trustees already serving were re-elected and welcomed Mrs. Rose Shelly, past president of New Jersey State Chapter, and Mrs. Helen Hays Hutton, past president of South Dakota and Tennessee State Chapters, as new trustees, thus meeting the requirements for incorporation of five members on the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Foundation.

As the respective terms of Miss Margaret Rommel and Mrs. Olive Carlson expired, vacancies were filled by election of Mrs. Martha Lawson, past president of Oklahoma State Chapter, and Mrs. Marjorie Gump, past president of Utah State Chapter.

The Internal Revenue Service makes mandatory one central unit responsible for directing the administration of the Foundation in accordance with governmental requirements. For the P.E.O. Foundation, the central directing authority is its board of trustees, and under its direction state chapter executive boards, and in some instances local chapters, may act as administrative agents.

The P.E.O. Foundation already has proved the value of its establishment in the thousands of dollars received for the benefit of the projects of the sisterhood. The largest bequest has been that of Uretta A. Hinkhouse, who at the time of her death was president of Supreme Chapter.

22 P.E.O. Homes

Numerous suggestions were made for a P.E.O. project during the Grand Chapter era, 1883-1893. A home for the aged was mentioned as well as an orphans' home, a girls' industrial home, a memorial to the founders, publication of a cook book and perhaps others. No action was taken to establish a home of any sort, although a girls' industrial home met with some favor when it was discussed in the 1887 convention. A committee was appointed to study the suggestion but the plan was dropped at the next convention.

After P.E.O. Day, June 18, 1904, at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, in Saint Louis, a balance of $658.88 was left in the P.E.O. Day fund. At the convention in 1905 the balance was turned over to the treasurer of Supreme Grand Chapter. Convention voted to enlarge the fund to $800. One suggestion for its use, made at the convention in 1907, was that it become the nucleus for a P.E.O. Home in Colorado. However, the convention voted to establish the P.E.O. Educational Fund instead. Twenty-four years later a committee reporting to the 1931 convention of Supreme Chapter recommended that no further effort be made to establish a National Home at that time. A recommendation adopted at the 1959 convention of Supreme Chapter provided for the appointment of a large committee to study retirement homes and to consider the feasibility of establishing a P.E.O. Home on a regional or international basis. The committee, reporting in 1961, did not consider it feasible.

In the meantime eight state P.E.O. Homes have been established. Although they are state projects, a brief current summary of the eight homes follows.

Iowa

Sarah Porter Beckwith Home
601 West Monroe Street, Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

The original property was a gift of Mrs. Sarah Porter Beckwith to Iowa State Chapter of P.E.O. in 1929. It was accepted at the 1930 convention of Iowa State Chapter. Sarah Porter, who attended the Young Ladies Seminary in Mount Pleasant, married Captain Warren Beckwith, an official of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. They built the beautiful twenty-room home on three acres of land a few blocks west of the business district.

Mrs. Beckwith moved to California after the death of her husband and a caretaker was left in charge of the home. It saw various uses before it became the Iowa P.E.O. Home.

The home is supported by a portion of each member's state dues (65 cents) and by special gifts and bequests. Many chapters make special contributions in addition to dues. The capacity of the home is 21 with 16 guests there at the present time (1968). A large addition was built to the west of the original home.

"Much emphasis is placed on promoting activities among the guests," according to Florence Irving, first vice president, Iowa State Chapter. "They participate in church activities, clubs and other civic groups within the city of Mount Pleasant, as well as pursuing their own hobbies....One of the delightful activities at the Sarah Porter Beckwith Home is the reading-aloud hour with discussion following. Guests thereby keep abreast of current books and daily news." A charming spirit of gentility has become a tradition at the Sarah Porter Beckwith Home.

California

Alhambra Unit

700 N. Stoneman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91801

The original property was a gift, in 1933, of Mrs. Stella Winans Carver, first president of California State Chapter, in memory of her sister Miss Martha Winans, who later became president of California State Chapter. Mrs. Carver started P.E.O. in California with the organization of Chapter A (old AK) in 1889. The original building of eleven rooms was once a ranch house.

California P.E.O.'s raised money to put the home in order and to build a large addition several years later. The home is financed by resident fees, investments from entrance fees, gifts, and dues from each California P.E.O., $1.75 per year (shared with San Jose Unit). Capacity is 75 plus 30 in the infirmary, called the Rest Cottage. There are 86 in the home (1968) and it has a long waiting list.

The principal object of the home is to establish an atmosphere of comfort and security in addition to the essentials of a pleasant residence.

San Jose Unit

5203 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, California 95127

It became apparent several years ago that California needed a second home somewhere in the northern part of the state. In 1964 a modern property was purchased and a home established in San Jose. The home is financed by resident fees, gifts, and a share of the $1.75 dues from each California P.E.O.

The capacity of the home is 40, plus a Health Unit for 12. There are 48 residents in the home (1968), with no waiting list.

Residents of the two units of the California P.E.O. Home are grateful for the opportunity of living together in a P.E.O. atmosphere.

Nebraska

Nebraska P.E.O. Home

The Nebraska P.E.O. Home was acquired as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Elliott. The lovely brick, twenty-room home had been their residence for many years. Martha Elliott was a member of Chapter Z in Beatrice. The home is three blocks from the main business district and within walking distance of churches and theaters. The gift was accepted at the 1937 convention of Nebraska State Chapter. The home was dedicated May 15, 1938, and opened for guests in September. On April 28, 1955, an annex, including a four-bed infirmary, was dedicated.

The home is financed by entrance fees, monthly payments of guests, gifts from chapters and individuals, bequests, investments, and a portion of Nebraska State Chapter dues, $2.00 per active member at the present time (1968).

The capacity of the Nebraska P.E.O. Home is 24 private rooms plus living quarters for the superintendent. It has 24 guests and there is a waiting list. Nebraska P.E.O.'s have called the home – An Investment in Loving Care.

Idaho

P.E.O. Chapter House
114 East Logan Street, Caldwell, Idaho 83702

The property that became the Idaho P.E.O. Chapter House, plus $8,000 in cash, was the gift of four donors and was made contingent on Idaho State Chapter's ability to raise an additional $20,000 for remodeling within 60 days. It was summer and chapters were not meeting, but in less than 60 days $21,000 was raised. In addition, Idaho State Chapter had accumulated a Home Fund of $23,000 over a fourteen-year period. The gift was made in 1950 and the home was opened in 1951. The membership of Idaho State Chapter in 1950 was about 2,100.

The capacity of the home is 17 when the guest room is used, 18 if two residents live in one of the cottages. There are now 16 guests plus the manager and the cook (1968) with no waiting list.

Idaho P.E.O.'s are proud of their P.E.O. Chapter House and think of it as a lovely home for gracious living.

Illinois

Illinois P.E.O. Home, Knoxville, Illinois 61436

The large red brick building, now known as the Illinois P.E.O. Home, was offered to Illinois State Chapter as a gift in 1948. The transfer was completed in 1952. Under the will of Mary H. Jones, the building in Knoxville was first established (1912) as a home for elderly women.

Now, as the property of Illinois State Chapter, the home is financed by resident fees, gifts, and $1.00 per capita state chapter dues. The capacity of the home is 30. It has 26 guests at present (1968). The building has four floors and, according to Mrs. Mathias, chairman of the board of trustees, has ample space for an office, dining area, an infirmary, lounges, a library, and the beautiful appointments that make for gracious living and a feeling of security. Some of the residents have their own flower beds in the spacious yard.

Missouri

Missouri P.E.O. Home
2912 Frederick Avenue, Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506

The Missouri P.E.O. Home is a spacious old Georgian-type mansion with high ceilings, ten fireplaces, sprawling verandas and shuttered windows.

It was purchased by Missouri State Chapter in 1955, and carefully remodeled and redecorated to retain its original charm. The third floor, once the ballroom, is now a suite of rooms: four bedrooms, central living room and bath.

Formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. Graham G. Lady, the Missouri P.E.O. Home was established in 1957. It now houses 14 guests. Two more have filed papers for entrance. The capacity of the home is 16. It is financed by gifts, resident fees, and $1.00 per capita from all Missouri P.E.O.'s. Buses pass the home, and churches and a shopping area are within walking distance.

Colorado

Colorado P.E.O. Chapter House, Inc.
1819 West Cheyenne Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906

The Colorado Chapter House was purchased by Colorado State Chapter and was opened October 1, 1966. It is a home planned for gracious living, not a nursing home. There are spacious living quarters and three good meals are served daily.

The Chapter House is financed by entrance fees, monthly resident fees, gifts, and $1.00 per capita from all Colorado P.E.O.'s.

Expansion of its 18 individual units is planned as needed. General facilities would accommodate 60. There are five residents in the home (1968) with some applications pending.

The Chapter House is in a beautiful 9-acre park in a scenic area of Colorado Springs. Many cultural advantages are available in the area.

23 P.E.O. Groups

A new entity, the P.E.O. Groups, came into being during the 1963-1965 biennium. For several years, need was recognized for some kind of a P.E.O. connected group whose members did not assume all functions of a P.E.O. chapter.

Under the direction of Mrs. Ethel O. Gardner, second vice president of Supreme Chapter, plans were evolved to establish P.E.O. Groups in college, retirement, government, or foreign communities. A P.E.O. Group must be authorized by, and under the jurisdiction of the executive board of the state (or Supreme) chapter having jurisdiction over the area where the group is to be located. Members of P.E.O. Groups remain active members of their respective local chapters and gain membership into a group by presenting current P.E.O. membership cards. Seven members are required to establish a group. The name of the group shall include the name of the college, retirement, government, or foreign community where it is located.

Two pilot groups were established during the 1963-1965 biennium. One was a college group in Columbia, Missouri, that had been meeting under sponsorship of the local chapters in Columbia since 1947. Mrs. Virginia Botts, then president of Chapter AZ, was the leader in the early movement. Mrs. Dorothy L. Weller, president of Supreme Chapter in 1947, granted permission for its formation. Active interest has been maintained since then, though the membership has been a changing one.

The seventy active enthusiastic members helped to formulate the new program for P.E.O. Groups. Members of that college group are students and teachers at the University of Missouri, Stephens College, and Christian College, all in Columbia. The organization was completed with the help of Missouri State Chapter and local chapters in Columbia.

The other pilot group was the Leisure World P.E.O. Group formed at Seal Beach, California. More than one hundred P.E.O. members living at Leisure World were all anxious for some P.E.O. contact. The new P.E.O. Group was organized with the help of the executive board of California and the Long Beach Reciprocity Group.

With the help and experience of those two pilot groups, a definite program for P.E.O. Groups was formulated and a P.E.O. Group Book prepared by Mrs. Gardner. The book includes: Requirements, Order of Business, Suggested Form for Bylaws, Installation of Officers, and Methods of Conducting Business.

Plans were under way for a P.E.O. Group in Europe but were not completed before the end of the 1963-1965 biennium.

During the 1965-1967 biennium twelve P.E.O. Groups were organized in the United States and three in foreign countries. Total membership October, 1967, was nearly 700, including members of the two pilot groups organized the previous biennium.

One of the new groups is a College Group of twenty-one members at Iowa University, Iowa City. The following groups were organized in retirement areas or homes: Sun City, Arizona, with one hundred sixty-one members; Laguna Hills, California, with one hundred fifty members; Rancho Bernardo in San Diego, California, with thirty-two members; Wesley Palms in San Diego, with thirty-five members; Windsor Garden, Denver, Colorado, with seventeen members; Sun City Center, near Bradenton, Florida, with eighteen members; Methodist Home, Franklin, Indiana, with ten members (one was reinstated to become a member of the group); Wesley Manor, Frankfort, Indiana, with eight members (three were reinstated); Friendship Haven, Fort Dodge, Iowa, with nineteen members; Bristol Village, Waverly, Ohio, with eight members (one reinstated); Rose Villa, near Portland, Oregon, with fifteen members.

All of these groups were formed through the excellent work of state chapter officers in charge of P.E.O. Groups, and with the cooperation of reciprocity groups and individual members, appointed by the executive board of the state chapters to sponsor the groups.

As sponsor of P.E.O. Groups in foreign territory, Miss Helen Evers, third vice president of Supreme Chapter, formed the Frankfurt-Heidelberg P.E.O. Group in January, 1966, with fourteen members. It was formed from a larger group called the P.E.O.'s in Europe brought together by Mrs. Katherine Inman, an enthusiastic member of Chapter Q, Virigina, living in Heidelberg. By the work of several members of the larger group, P.E.O.'s scattered throughout Europe were kept in contact through a monthly newsletter, The Shining Star. The newsletter is now a project of the Frankfurt-Heidelberg P.E.O. Group.

The Brussels P.E.O. Group in Belgium, formed with eight members the summer of 1967, was the second P.E.O. Group in a foreign country. The third outside the United States was formed June 2, 1967, in Mexico City with sixteen members.

Correspondence with hundreds of P.E.O.'s living temporarily in foreign countries has made it possible for P.E.O.'s to meet in many lands, including The Hague, England, Brazil, Australia and Thailand.

Most of the preceding information concerning the 1965-1967 biennium was taken from the biennial report of Miss Helen Evers.

There were many forerunners to the formation of P.E.O. Groups abroad. For almost half a century articles have appeared, periodically, about P.E.O.'s meeting in foreign countries. As long ago as January, 1923, a story told of nine P.E.O.'s meeting for luncheon in Manila October 28, 1922. A new baby kept the tenth P.E.O. at home.

In September, 1949, The P.E.O. Record printed a letter, mailed the previous June, telling of nineteen P.E.O.'s in the Grant Heights and Tokyo areas of Japan who had met each month from October, 1948. P.E.O.'s in Hawaii met for many months before a chapter was organized in Honolulu. The P.E.O. Record for December, 1962, told of four P.E.O.'s and their husbands located in Vietnam. Readers of The P.E.O. Record will know of many others. Certainly the formation of P.E.O. Groups in foreign countries is the answer to a long-felt need.

The P.E.O. Groups were given constitutional status when the convention of 1967 voted to adopt a new article, Article XIV, P.E.O. Groups, to be added to Part III of the Constitution. The article outlines the Purpose, Establishment, Sponsorship, Membership, Name, P.E.O. Group Book, and Officers.

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Past Presidents of Supreme Chapter

Seven women served Grand Chapter as president from the time it was organized, September 4, 5, 1883, to the reorganization of the P.E.O. structure in October, 1893.

Miss Mary Berry, Centerville, Iowa, was elected the first president of Grand Chapter. During that first year as president she was married to Mr. A. R. Price and they moved to London Mills, Illinois. She was re-elected in 1884. Miss Clara Weiny, Bloomfield, Iowa, was president, 1885-1886. Mrs. Effie Hoffman Rogers, Oskaloosa, Iowa, served three terms as president, 1886-1889. Miss Nancy Torrence, Sigourney, Iowa, was elected president in October, 1889. During her year as president she was married to Mr. David T. Stockman. Miss Orian Pendleton, Centerville, Iowa, was president, 1890-1891; Mrs. Sarah R. Dewey, Washington, Iowa, 1891-1892; and Mrs. Jessie Mallory Thayer, Chariton, Iowa, 1892-1893.

Biographical sketches of the seven early past presidents of Grand Chapter, and the story of their combined years of P.E.O. activity will be found in Chapter 11 of this volume.

The convention of 1892 named the highest governing body the Supreme Grand Chapter. The convention of 1893 adopted a complete revision of the constitution and bylaws. Two notable changes were made: division of the constitution of P.E.O. into three parts—national, state, and local chapters—and provision for biennial conventions.

Mrs. Alice Cary Brooks Briggs
1893-1895

Alice Cary Brooks Briggs, named for Alice Cary, the writer, has been described as a gracious person, a talented singer, an efficient officer. She was born near Bloomfield, Iowa; educated at Iowa

Wesleyan; married, December 9, 1867, to Abbie J. Briggs, brother of the founder, Hattie Briggs; moved to Superior, Nebraska, where she became a P.E.O. April 10, 1889. She had one son and Hattie's two sons lived in the Briggs home, for a time, after Hattie's death. Two sisters were distinguished P.E.O.'s, also: Mrs. Belle Brooks Lynch and Mrs. May Brooks Snider.

Mrs. Briggs, the first president of Nebraska Grand Chapter, 1890 - 1891, became president of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1893. The 1895 convention, the first biennial convention and the first held outside of Iowa, was entertained by Chapter E, Omaha.

Alice Cary Brooks Briggs

A new financial plan for The P.E.O. Record was adopted, a per capita tax or percentage of all dues, as suggested by the editor, Mrs. Richards.

The four living founders were made life members of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Mrs. Alice Sellers Spilman
1895-1897

Mrs. Alice Spilman was a natural leader. She thought clearly, made decisions quickly, and was an effectual member.

Alice Sellers Spilman

She was born at Topeka, Kansas, February 15, 1859. The family soon moved to Albia, Iowa, then to Oskaloosa where she graduated from high school, and at seventeen, started her teaching career. She taught at Oskaloosa, Albia and Ottumwa before her marriage to Dr. S. A. Spilman December 26, 1886. They made their home in Ottumwa where their one child, a son, was born.

Alice became a member of Chapter G, Ottumwa, May 27, 1885. She was the first president of Iowa Grand Chapter, 1893-1894, and was president of Supreme Grand Chapter, 1895-1897. She helped to develop an amicable relationship between state and Supreme chapters;

outlined plans for organization and inspection; and wrote an opening ritual for chapter meetings. At her convention in Newton, Iowa, October, 1897, the constitution was revised, and a motion was tabled to build a conservatory of music on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan as a memorial to the seven founders.

Mrs. Flora Chester Herring
1897-1899

Mrs. Flora Chester Herring, a tireless, P.E.O. worker, was known for her knowledge of the constitution, her parliamentary skill, and her delightful directness of thought and expression, yet she never failed to be kind and considerate. She was born and lived all of her life at Fairfield, Iowa. She taught in the public schools nine years before her marriage to Charles A. Herring, a business man.

Flora Chester Herring

She was initiated into Chapter C, Fairfield, in the 1880's, was president of the Iowa Grand Chapter, 1896-1897, and became president of Supreme Grand Chapter in October, 1897. During her presidency she gave the organization unity, coherence, and a progressive tendency. She assisted in two revisions of the constitution and in the revision of the initiation ceremony adopted in 1907. She led the effort to reclaim inactive members and to prevent more members from becoming so. She recommended the use of funds of Supreme Grand Chapter to help finance inspection and organization of state chapters.

Mrs. Herring's convention in Chicago, October, 1899, adopted the initiatory emblem, and authorized publication of the first volume of P.E.O. history, the "White History" printed in 1903.

Mrs. Mollie Moreland Campbell
1899-1901

Mrs. Mollie Moreland Campbell exhibited great administrative ability during her nine and one-half years of active work in P.E.O. She had the courage of her convictions and yet her opinions and ultimate decisions were based on logical reasoning. She was born in

Oskaloosa, Iowa, where she attended public school and where she taught before her marriage to Walter Campbell.

Mollie Moreland Campbell

She was initiated into Chapter X, Oskaloosa, Iowa, February 22, 1892. The following September she was elected president. She resigned as president of Chapter X in 1894 to become the first organizer of Iowa Grand Chapter. She served through a difficult year when many inspections were needed and where economy was necessary. She became first vice president of Iowa Grand Chapter in 1896 and president in 1897.

Mrs. Campbell was elected president of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1899. In her official capacity she visited more than thirty chapters. At the 1901 convention of Supreme Grand Chapter a complete record of subordinate chapter members was reported for the first time, the approximate membership, 5,500.

Mrs. Carrie Russell Hapeman
1901-1903

Carrie Russell Hapeman

Mrs. Carrie R. Hapeman was a natural leader, known for her lovable nature, merry disposition, keen wit, and sound judgment. She gave generously of her time to her church and was devoted to P.E.O.

Mrs. Hapeman was born in Wyoming, New York, October 14, 1860. The daughter of a Baptist minister, she had unusual educational advantages and cultural associations. She taught in the public schools before being married to Dr. Harry Hapeman. October 14, 1883, at Palo, Illinois. They moved later to Minden, Nebraska, where she became a charter member of Chapter N, May 29, 1895. Because of her interest and diligence she rose in six years, through various offices, from local treasurer to president of Supreme Grand Chapter.

At her convention, held at Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1903, state grand chapter charters were issued to Illinois and Kansas; the constitution was revised particularly as to correctness of form and logical sequence; proxy votes were discontinued; the P.E.O. emblem came definitely under the supervision of Supreme Grand Chapter, with pins being loaned to members. The P.E.O. Record became a recognized department of Supreme Grand Chapter.

M. Lue Weber

Mrs. M. Lue Weber
1903-1905

Mrs. M. Lue Weber, remembered as the P.E.O. officer with a Puritan conscience, was impartial and fair in her decisions; correct, precise, and faithful in administration of her duties. She introduced simpler forms of entertainment in both state and Supreme conventions.

She was born in Elmwood, Illinois, the daughter of William Young, and Elizabeth Nixon Young. She was educated at Lenox College, Hopkinton, Iowa, and married to H. G. Weber, Atlantic, Iowa. She became a charter member of Chapter AF, Atlantic, June 6, 1892. After holding lesser offices in state and Supreme Grand chapters she was elected president of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1903.

Her convention, held at Thorntown, Indiana, used the term "Guest of Honor," for Mrs. Carrie R. Hapeman, the immediate past president of Supreme Grand Chapter; issued charters to state grand chapters of California and Washington; set aside funds remaining from the celebration of P.E.O. day at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, $658.88, together with $141.12 from the treasury of Supreme Grand Chapter, as a memorial fund, that later became the nucleus of the Educational Fund.

Mrs. Mary D. Lawrence
1905-1907

Mrs. Mary Dalgran Lawrence brought to the presidency of Supreme Grand Chapter a trained mind and an efficient administration that made of her office a real business.

She was born near Edina, Missouri, but later the family moved to Meade County, Kansas. She attended country schools, high school, and normal school before teaching, and later served as county superintendent and editor of the county paper. She resigned as editor when she became the wife of Samuel Lawrence, a young attorney of Kansas City, Missouri, April 14, 1892. She studied law under her husband and was the first woman admitted to the bar in Missouri, May, 1895. She and her husband practiced law in Kansas City under the name of Lawrence and Lawrence. After the death of Mr. Lawrence, Mary taught in the high schools of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mary D. Lawrence

Mrs. Lawrence was initiated into P.E.O. in Chapter A, Meade, Kansas, and transferred her membership later to Chapter F, Kansas City, Missouri. She served as president of the Missouri Grand Chapter, and vice president and president of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Her convention, held at Brookfield, Missouri, in October, 1907, was an historic one for it was there that the Memorial Fund became the P.E.O. Educational Fund, to be loaned for educational purposes, setting the stage for growth of the fund from $800 in 1905 to over one million dollars (1968).

Mrs. Carrie M. Peterson
1907-1909

Carrie M. Peterson

Mrs. Carrie M. Peterson was a woman of exceptional business and executive ability, yet charming, gracious, and always modest of her own attainments. She was a leader in the Nebraska State Federation of Women's Clubs, chairman for Nebraska in Liberty Loan and Victory Loan drives, and a member of the Board of Control of Nebraska.

She was born at De Kalb, Illinois, June 28, 1860, and educated in the Beloit, Wisconsin, schools. She was married, September 19, 1882, to Andrew G. Peterson, a merchant and banker of Aurora, Nebraska. She was active in the Christian Church, a member of the public library board, and a worldwide traveler.

Mrs. Peterson was chairman of the committee that prepared and distributed the initiation ceremony adopted in 1907. She was president of Nebraska Grand Chapter and Supreme Grand Chapter. Her convention in 1909, the fortieth anniversary of P.E.O., was entertained by Chapter A in Mount Pleasant. Mary Allen Stafford lead the devotional service and Alice Bird Babb gave the address of welcome. The Oklahoma charter was presented by Mary Allen Stafford. The name of the highest body of P.E.O. was changed from Supreme Grand Chapter to Supreme Chapter.

Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves
1909-1911

Mrs. Winona E. Reeves had a deep love and abiding faith in the principles of P.E.O., as shown by her long continuity of membership and her devotion to the sisterhood. Her observations were always direct yet at all times courteous and kind. She was a capable writer, editor, author, and speaker who believed that "weakness of principle in daily life encourages spiritual bankruptcy."

Winona Evans Reeves

Mrs. Reeves was born at Big Mound, Iowa, August 14, 1871. She attended Whittier College and Iowa Wesleyan University, receiving earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Iowa Wesleyan, and in 1944, an honorary degree of L.H.D. She was married to Harry J. Reeves, December 23, 1897. She was initiated into P.E.O., Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in June, 1889, and subsequently belonged to the college chapter, Iowa Wesleyan; Chapter U, Keokuk, Iowa; Chapter D, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and became a member of Chapter A, Chicago, Illinois in December, 1921. She served the Iowa Grand Chapter as secretary, vice president, and president; Supreme Chapter as organizer, vice president and president. She was editor of The P.E.O. Record, 1918-1949, and was a member of the board of trustees of Cottey College, 1936-1939. She wrote The Story of P.E.O., 1869-1923, and the second volume, 1924-1936.

At her convention, held in Saint Louis, Missouri, in 1911, a processional was used to open convention; charters were granted to Oregon State Chapter and Chapter A, Vancouver, British Columbia; a board of trustees for The P.E.O. Record was established; and a new officer, custodian of supplies, was added to Supreme Chapter. The May issue of The P.E.O. Record became the official directory number. The word "dimit" was adopted to define transfer from one chapter to another. Chapter A, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, was designated as Chapter Original A.

Grace Runyan Parks

Mrs. Grace Runyan Parks
1911-1913

Mrs. Grace Runyan Parks was born December 14, 1868, in Chicago, Illinois, and received her education in the public schools and from a private tutor. She was married, August 6, 1888, at Racine, Wisconsin, to Samuel Shaw Parks, a lawyer of Chicago, Illinois. She was an active worker in her church, Congregational, and during World War I was one of the Chicago chairmen for loan fund drives.

She was initiated into P.E.O. in 1896 by members of Chapter A, Chicago, and later was one of the charter members of Chapter I, Chicago. She was vice president and president of both the Illinois State Chapter and the Supreme Chapter. At her convention of Supreme Chapter, Hutchinson, Kansas, 1913, a charter was granted to Minnesota State Chapter, and Miss Mary Osmond, who had served 18 years as editor of The P.E.O. Record, resigned. Miss Osmond was presented a check for $500 in appreciation of her work.

Mrs. Edith Prouty Prichard
1913-1915

Miss Edith Prouty was a successful lawyer of Iowa, practicing as a partner of her father until his death. She was born in Freeport, Illinois, and came to Iowa in infancy. She received a B.S. degree from the Iowa State University in 1890 and the L.L.B. degree in 1891. She began the practice of law at Humboldt, Iowa, June, 1891. She argued orally before the Supreme Court, was local attorney for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, and taught in the law school connected with Humboldt College. She was a strong advocate of woman suffrage, a prominent member of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, and active in the Republican party.

Edith Prouty Prichard

Miss Prouty became a charter member of Chapter BV, Humboldt, Iowa, and later belonged to Chapter DO, Kansas City, Missouri. She was chairman of the War Camp Community Service Committee of Iowa for P.E.O. She held several offices, including that of president, in the Iowa State Chapter, and was organizer, vice president, and president of Supreme Chapter. She was one of the first to advocate that P.E.O. be taken into British Columbia, Canada. She was married to Ira C. Prichard, at Humboldt, Iowa, June 25, 1920, and moved to Kansas City, Missouri. At the convention of Supreme Chapter in Los Angeles, at which Miss Prouty presided, charters were granted to North Dakota State Chapter and Idaho State Chapter. The smaller size pin was officially approved, and the office of treasurer of the Educational Fund was established.

Helen M. Drake

Mrs. Helen M. Drake
1915-1917

Mrs. Helen M. Drake came to the presidency of Supreme Chapter, P.E.O., by way of the organizer's office, bringing with her an unusual knowledge of the need for strengthening the procedures of P.E.O. She gave most of her time for two years toward bringing all departments to a state of equal efficiency.

Mrs. Drake was born in Cuba, New York. She received an academic and normal school education supplemented by music, wide reading, and extensive travel. She was married June 11, 1884, to Ellet

Grant Drake of Bradford, Pennsylvania. The family later moved to Beatrice, Nebraska, where Mrs. Drake was a member of the Beatrice school board, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the North Central Committee of the Republican party. She was president of the Nebraska Grand Chapter before being elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter.

Because illness confined Mrs. Drake to her hotel room, Miss Margaret Durward, vice president, presided at the 1917 convention held in Omaha, Nebraska. At this convention charters were granted to Wisconsin and South Dakota, the position of custodian of supplies was made appointive, the selection of a person to write a history of P.E.O. for the fiftieth anniversary meeting was authorized, and the slogan of $100,000 in the Educational Fund in 1919 was adopted.

Miss Margaret Durward
1917-1919

Miss Margaret Durward was a popular president of Supreme Chapter. She was a charming companion with a delightful sense of humor. She had a broad education and was always alert to new issues. Her decisions were based on the logic of reasoning and a sense of ethics, rather than being bound by procedure. This enabled her to make many improvements in the business organization of P.E.O. while she was president.

Miss Durward was born in Aberdeen, Scotland of Scotch Presbyterian ancestry. The family moved to Norfork, Virginia, and later to a farm near Boulder, Colorado. She attended the Colorado State University, then earned a Ph.B. degree from the University of Chicago. She taught twenty-five years before becoming superintendent of the school of agriculture and assistant dean of the Colorado State College at Fort Collins. In P.E.O. she held the offices of vice president and president of both Colorado State Chapter and Supreme Chapter.

Margaret Durward

Miss Durward's convention held in Denver, Colorado, 1919, was notable for several actions; it celebrated the golden anniversary of P.E.O.; two of the founders, Mary Allen Stafford and Franc Roads

Elliott, were on the program; the slogan of $100,000 for the Educational Fund, adopted in 1917, was realized; there was a complete revision of the constitution; an executive secretary, an appointive office, was added; provision was made for a general office; the word "Grand" was stricken from the name of the state, district, and provincial chapters.

Mrs. Helen Dawson Townsend
1919-1921

Mrs. Helen Dawson Townsend had official connection with state and Supreme chapters of P.E.O. for many years. She was president of Iowa Grand Chapter, served six years as chairman of the first board of trustees, P.E.O. Educational Fund, was treasurer for two years, and was president of Supreme Chapter 1919-1921. Her long association with the Educational Fund saw the development of the laws that safeguarded the fund and increased its usefulness.

Helen Dawson Townsend

Helen Dawson was born at Paxton, Illinois, January 17, 1866. She attended public school at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and studied at the University of Michigan. She was married, August 14, 1889, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Fred Townsend, an attorney. She was initiated into Chapter H, Albia, Iowa, in 1892 and gave the sisterhood long and excellent service.

Mrs. Townsend's administration as president of Supreme Chapter, 1919-1921, followed a complete revision of the constitution. She attended many state chapter conventions to explain and interpret the revised constitution. In accordance with action taken at the 1919 convention of Supreme Chapter held in Denver, Colorado, she established P.E.O.'s first executive office in the Stevens Building, No. 17 State Street, Chicago, and appointed Mrs. Ada Baysoar as the first executive secretary.

At her convention, held at Kansas City, Missouri, October 3-7, 1921, charters were issued to state chapters in Michigan, Wyoming, and Montana; a revision of the initiation ceremony was adopted; a plan for a memorial library to be placed on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan was proposed and a committee was appointed to consider the plan.

Mrs. Bertha Clark Hughes
1921-1923

Mrs. Bertha Clark Hughes brought to the presidency of Supreme Chapter the spirit of youth, the vision of great things to be done, and the will and ability to do them. She showed a personal interest in every department of P.E.O.

Bertha Clark was born July 3, 1880, in Bethany, Illinois. In the early 1880's her family moved to South Omaha, Nebraska, where she attended the public schools. She was graduated from the School of Speech, Northwestern University, in 1901. For six years she taught English, dramatics, and public speaking in Tobin College, Fort Dodge, Iowa, and in high schools in Omaha, Nebraska. She was married June 5, 1907, to Mr. John Rutherford Hughes, a graduate of the law school of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their one daughter, Mary Jane Hughes Joy, and her family live in California. Bertha won distinction in many areas of endeavor throughout her long and useful life. She became a noted parliamentarian and was proud of her service as president of the National Association of Parliamentarians, 1945-1947. She was parliamentarian for the National Republican Convention in 1952.

Bertha Clark Hughes

Bertha Clark Hughes became a P.E.O. February 25, 1903, when she was initiated into Chapter M, Omaha, Nebraska. She served the sisterhood in many capacities before her election as president of Supreme Chapter in 1921. One objective of Mrs. Hughes was to make her administration a business administration. The executive office was moved from Chicago to Omaha to enable the president to keep in close touch with all departments. The ritual as revised in 1921 was distributed to all chapters. The plan to increase the working capital of the Educational Fund to $200,000 by 1923, was exceeded by $4,163.48. Bertha had helped to draft the first rules governing the Educational Fund, and was treasurer of the fund, 1917-1919, when the drive for $100,000 by 1919 was realized at the Golden Anniversary in Denver.

At Bertha's convention in 1923 the other members of the executive board of Supreme Chapter presented her with a rose-colored fan of ostrich plumes. At succeeding convention banquets of Nebraska State Chapter and Supreme Chapter, Bertha gracefully waved her fan in acknowledgment when she was introduced. To those who watched and knew and loved her, she became known as "The Lady of the Fan."

Mrs. Vina Ives Bowden
1923-1925

Mrs. Vina Ives Bowden's P.E.O. experience extended from a charter membership in Chapter AG, Missouri, in 1904, through state and Supreme offices to the presidency of Supreme Chapter in 1923. Her love and devotion for P.E.O. were best shown by her persistence in creating a favorable sentiment for building the P.E.O. Memorial Library. She and others who favored it spoke for it in every state convention during the 1923-1925 biennium. The library project, having received a definite setback in the previous convention of Supreme Chapter, was approved almost unanimously when presented at Mrs. Bowden's convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1925.

Vina Ives Bowden

Vina Ives was born in Eddyville, Iowa. She attended Grinnell College and was graduated in 1887 from its conservatory of music. She was married in 1889 to Richard N. Bowden in Ottumwa, Iowa, a merchant in Brookfield, Missouri. She became a charter member of Chapter AG, Brookfield in 1904. She was a devoted church woman of the Episcopalian faith. Mrs. Bowden served Supreme Chapter as treasurer, proxy organizer, president, and chairman of the Memorial Library Building Committee. In that capacity she laid the cornerstone and when the building was completed, presented it for dedication. It was she who in 1924, suggested the name Mount Pleasant for a yet unnamed mountain in the Absaroka range located near Yellowstone National Park. The 1967 convention of Supreme Chapter designated it as the official mountain of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and Mrs. Mary Kay Anderson, in behalf of Wyoming State Chapter, presented a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Mrs. Bowden's convention, held at Minneapolis in 1925, was notable in that favorable action was taken on building the P.E.O.

Memorial Library and that it was the first international convention, the provincial chapter of British Columbia, Canada, receiving its charter.

Mrs. Alice Hamner Scott
1925-1927

Mrs. Alice Hamner Scott was born near Council Grove, Kansas, the daughter of a pioneer Christian minister and his school teacher wife. Their way of life was dedicated to service. It is not surprising that service became a dominant characteristic in Alice's life. She became a beautiful, cultured woman, who carried her responsibilities with poise and charm. Hers was an imaginative, inquiring mind with ability to penetrate complex situations and reach just and gracious conclusions. A good executive, an appealing speaker, and an excellent writer, in tune always with the common every day duties of life, she served P.E.O. with distinction. She was married in 1903 to Howard Scott, a business man in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Alice Hamner Scott

Mrs. Scott was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter D, Hutchinson, transferred her membership to Chapter I when the family moved to Wichita, later to Chapter BN, Omaha, Nebraska, and finally to Chapter AY, McPherson, Kansas. She served two years as president of Kansas State Chapter, then, after serving as treasurer and organizer of Supreme Chapter, was elected president in 1925. That was a notable administration. The last two founders, Alice Bird Babb and Mary Allen Stafford, died during the biennium. The P.E.O. Memorial Library was built and dedicated in 1927. Then at the 1927 convention in Oklahoma City, at which Mrs. Scott presided, P.E.O. accepted the gift of Cottey College.

That was Alice Scott's last active service to P.E.O., but not her greatest service to mankind. Throughout her life, Alice took an active interest in the work of the Christian Church, on local, state and national levels. In 1931 she became superintendent of the Child Saving Institute at Omaha, Nebraska, a national project of the Christian Church. She served in that capacity nineteen years, resigning in 1950 because of ill health.

Mrs. Ola Babcock Miller
1927-1929

Mrs. Ola Babcock Miller was initiated into P.E.O. in 1888 by Chapter J, Washington, Iowa, where she and Mr. Miller, a newspaper editor, lived for many years. Having served in local, state, and Supreme chapter offices she was elected president of Supreme Chapter at the Oklahoma City convention in 1927.

Ola Babcock Miller

The first task of her administration was to handle the legal details of transferring ownership of Cottey College to the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The next was to familiarize the sisterhood with Cottey College and the many possibilities involved in P.E.O.'s new project as a contribution to the field of education. This was done by Mrs. Miller or her representative in state chapter conventions during the 1927-1929 biennium.

Mrs. Miller gave the dedicatory address for the P.E.O. Memorial Library, November, 1927. The executive offices of P.E.O. were established in the Memorial Library with the guidance of her administration.

Edith Markham Wallace

She later became Secretary of State of Iowa and gave her major effort to the work of highway safety and promotion of safe driving.

Mrs. Edith Markham Wallace
1929-1931

Mrs. Edith Markham Wallace was a woman of many talents—teacher, writer, and executive. Her early training was obtained in the public schools of Tacoma, Washington, where she later taught for seven years. She also attended Washington University and and did post graduate work at the Universities of Chicago and California.

For more than thirty years Mrs. Wallace was active in The National League of American Pen Women. She held classes in writing at the University of Washington, wrote for both adult and juvenile magazines, and was editor of The P.E.O. Record for eleven years (See chapter 14, The P.E.O. Record).

She held various offices in Chapter A, Tacoma, Washington; in Washington State Chapter; and in Supreme Chapter. During Mrs. Wallace's term as president of Supreme Chapter laws governing the Cottey College board of trustees, and its relationship to the sisterhood and the college were developed. During her administration, a charter was granted to Chapter A, Honolulu, the first chapter to be organized outside the mainland of North America.

Mrs. Zora Y. Knight
1931-1933

Mrs. Zora Y. Knight was born in Newark, Missouri, and was educated in the schools of that state, majoring in music. She was married June 6, 1900, to Charles A. Knight an attorney of Marshall, Missouri, where they lived until 1910 when they moved to Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Knight was initiated into Chapter W, Tecumseh, in 1912. She served Oklahoma State Chapter as recording secretary, organizer, and president. Her first service for Supreme Chapter was her six-year term on the board of trustees of The P.E.O. Record. In 1925 she was elected organizer of Supreme Chapter then first and second vice president, and president in 1931. Her administration brought increased interest in Cottey College for everywhere she went she made new friends for the college. She conceived and carried out the plan to take a whole convention delegation, 1933, from Kansas City to Nevada, Missouri, by special train to visit Cottey College. There were 882 delegates, officers and visitors.

Zora Y. Knight

She was a member of the Christian Church, the Synthetic Music Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, and other organizations. Mrs. Knight was deeply interested in music, having played the pipe organ in churches for many years. She was supervisor of music for nine years at the State Industrial School for Girls in Tecumseh.

Nell Farrell Stevenson, past president of Supreme Chapter, says of her, "The outstanding characteristics which governed Zora all during her P.E.O. service were good judgment, fairness, deep convictions and a firm stand for that which she believed to be right. Added to these was a rare sense of humor which carried her over many a rough place."

Mabel Davenport Doud

Miss Mabel Davenport Doud
1933-1935

Miss Mabel Davenport Doud possessed a real American heritage, her ancestors on both sides having come to America early in the 1600's. She was born and educated in the schools of Iowa and of Illinois. She had twenty years' experience in banking and investment life insurance, and for two years was associated with Saint Katherine's an Episcopal school for girls in Davenport, Iowa.

Miss Doud was initiated into Chapter P, Chicago. She held the offices of treasurer, vice president, and president in the Illinois State Chapter. She served Supreme Chapter first as a member of the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Educational Fund, then as first vice president, second vice president, and in 1933 was elected president of Supreme Chapter. She was a conscientious worker devoting her full time to the work of the office of president. Her convention, 1935, was memorable in many ways, and unique in that it was held in Yellowstone National Park. On recommendation of the executive board, publication of the second volume of The Story of P.E.O. was voted by the 1935 convention.

In religious faith Miss Doud was an Episcopalian, a member of Saint Peter's Church, Chicago, where she served in numerous capacities, notably as treasurer of the Woman's Guild.

Mrs. Hallie Atwood Newell
1935-1937

Mrs. Hallie Atwood Newell was born in Illinois, where preceding generations of her family lived from 1835. She was initiated as a young girl into Chapter F, Plattsmouth, Nebraska. She was married to James W. Newell, a railroad executive, and because of Mr. Newell's work lived in various states in the Middle West and for a time in the

East. During Mrs. Newell's administration as president their home was in Saint Louis, Missouri, where she was a member of Chapter EF.

Mrs. Newell served on two state boards in P.E.O.: as organizer of Illinois State Chapter and as organizer and president of Missouri State Chapter. She came to the executive board of Supreme Chapter as organizer and later served as first vice president, second vice president, and was elected president in the 1935 convention at Yellowstone National Park.

In her work as organizer in two states and in Supreme Chapter, she organized 42 chapters, including A, Honolulu, the first one outside the mainland. She also organized the first chapters in five states and two state chapters. During Mrs. Newell's administration the constitution and bylaws of Supreme Chapter were codified and as such were approved by the members of the 1937 convention in Saint Louis.

Hallie Atwood Newell

Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright
1937-1939

Mrs. Chellie Stevens Wright was born in Morgantown, West Virginia, and lived most of her life in Colorado. Soon after graduation from Denver University she became a charter member of Chapter J, Trinidad, Colorado, where she served as recording secretary until her marriage in October, 1904, to Fred R. Wright, an attorney in Denver.

She was a charter member of Chapter AI, Denver, and its first president. Subsequently she held many offices in Colorado State Chapter and in Supreme Chapter. In 1935 Mrs. Wright was elected second vice president of Supreme Chapter and upon the death of Mrs. Margaret Romig, August, 1936, was advanced to the office of

Chellie Stevens Wright

first vice president, and served in that capacity until elected president of Supreme Chapter at the 1937 convention in Saint Louis, Missouri.

The fire in Neale Hall, Cottey College, in late 1936, called attention to the need for new electrical wiring and improvements in other buildings and made the construction of a new dormitory imperative. These improvements were largely accomplished during Mrs. Wright's administration. "There will always be two days in my P.E.O. life that will stand out as extremely happy ones," said Mrs. Wright. "They are October 29, 1938, when the cornerstone was laid for P.E.O. Hall, and March 25, 1939, when the building was dedicated."

Mrs. Veda M. Jones
1939-1941

"There are those rare souls whose very presence and sense of values spark into our lives hope, courage, understanding, and happiness. Such a person was Veda MacClement Jones," wrote her friend, Mrs. Edith Markham Wallace.

Mrs. Jones was a native Iowan where she received her early education and normal training. Later she took advanced courses at Columbia and Oregon Universities. For many years her home was in Portland, Oregon, where her husband, Wilfrid P. Jones was in the banking business, and where they reared their two daughters and a son.

Veda M. Jones

Veda was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter BW, Algona, Iowa, on December 11, 1903, and demitted to Chapter A, Portland in 1913. There she pioneered in organizing P.E.O. chapters.

The outstanding accomplishment of her administration as president of Supreme Chapter was undoubtedly the expansion of housing at Cottey College by: repayment of the $100,000 loan to build P.E.O. Hall; remodeling of Stockard Hall; and the purchase of Ellis House as a home for the president. Another notable accomplishment was the allocation of dues to include the General Building Improvement and Furnishing Fund. The unique feature of her term was the convention in Victoria, British Columbia in 1941, the first to be held outside the United States.

Mrs. Blanche D. Walker
1941-1943

Mrs. Blanche D. Walker was a native of Michigan, a graduate of Menominee high school, Michigan State Normal School, and did graduate work at the University of Washington. She married J. W. Walker, a druggist, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. They soon moved to Montana to make their home. Mr. Walker served the state of Montana as treasurer and chairman of the State Tax Commission. Mr. and Mrs. Walker were asked to take charge of the Girls Vocational School at Helena, she as superintendent and Mr. Walker as farm and plant manager. After four years they resigned to return to their former home near Kalispell.

Blanche D. Walker

Mrs. Walker served Supreme Chapter as a member of The P.E.O. Record board of trustees, corresponding secretary, second vice president, first vice president, and was elected president at the 1941 convention held at Victoria, British Columbia. She served as parliamentarian in three conventions of Supreme Chapter: 1949, 1955, 1957.

Her administration had many special problems and opportunities as the result of World War II. In conforming to government requests relative to travel and hotel housing the 1943 convention of Supreme Chapter was voluntarily reduced in size to one-tenth of its customary delegate body. The United Victory Fund was originated to provide an opportunity for P.E.O.'s to contribute to the war effort. This fund made it possible to furnish five clubmobiles at $10,000 each for use by the Red Cross on the African front.

Mrs. Carrie B. Simpson said: "It is the spirit which motivates the work of the president that counts, the wisdom with which she faces difficult situations and problems of procedure. In these things Blanche Walker was conscientious and untiring."

Mrs. Carrie B. Simpson
1943-1945

Mrs. Carrie Bonebrake Simpson was born in Knoxville, Iowa where she attended public schools. In 1903 she graduated from

Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, with an A.B. degree. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by her alma mater in 1953. While in college she was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter M, Knoxville. The same year after graduation she married Howard Edwin Simpson. After two years in Harvard Graduate School he was elected to the faculty of the University of North Dakota, where he became head of the Department of Geology and Geography. The Simpsons had two sons, Robert and Edwin, and two daughters, Jessie Frances and Carolyn. Carolyn died in childhood.

Carrie B. Simpson

Mrs. Simpson was a charter member and the first president of Chapter D, North Dakota, and was instrumental in calling the convocation at which the North Dakota State Chapter was organized. She was elected president of Supreme Chapter in 1943 at the Detroit convention. Her committee assignments in Supreme Chapter included board of trustees, The P.E.O. Record, appointed 1929; chairman of War Work, 1941-1943; chairman of Finance Committee, 1945-1947; and Historian, 1949-1959.

Mrs. Simpson's term as president of Supreme Chapter had the restrictions and uncertainty of a war period, but she was adequate to all demands. Her convention in 1945 was planned for fifty members. Shortly before the convention was to be held the Office of Defense Transportation liberalized the rules regarding travel and assemblage which allowed the P.E.O. convention body to be increased from fifty to one hundred and fifty members. The United Victory Fund allowed for the maintenance of five clubmobiles; furnished through Canadian Red Cross, Christmas food packages for Allied prisoners of war; furnished a lounge on the hospital ship, Algonquin; and purchased five hundred and forty individual bedside radios at a cost of $11,500 for use in hospitals for veterans. Work with veterans in hospitals continued through the next two or three bienniums.

Mrs. Dorothy L. Weller
1945-1947

Mrs. Dorothy Lee Weller was born in New London, Iowa, but at an early age moved with her parents to Glendale, California, where she has lived since that time. She attended the public schools of Glendale, and later the University of California at Berkeley and the College of Music of the University of Southern California. While in college she married Frank C. Weller, an attorney, who shortly thereafter was elected to the California legislature serving two sessions in the state assembly and two in the state senate. Dorothy attended the legislative sessions and it was here that her interest in parliamentary law began, a study continued since that time. She is a registered parliamentarian in the National Association of Parliamentarians. Although the Wellers had no children of their own, their lives were brightened for some years by the presence of four growing boys whom they took into their home.

Dorothy L. Weller

Mrs. Weller's P.E.O. service began in Chapter L, Glendale; her membership has continued in that chapter. She was elected president of Supreme Chapter at the 1945 convention in Saint Paul, Minnesota. One of her privileges as president of Supreme Chapter was representing the P.E.O. Sisterhood at the United Women's Conference held in San Francisco in 1945 in connection with the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO).

Mrs. Weller was chairman of the committee on Amendments and Recommendations at four conventions of Supreme Chapter, and has been parliamentarian at five. She also was chairman of the committee on incorporation of Cottey College and the P.E.O. Foundation. Since, she has served Supreme Chapter as parliamentarian and tax chairman, and is adviser to the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Foundation. Mrs. Weller's knowledge and ability in the area of income tax problems have been distinctly valuable to P.E.O. Mr. Weller, one of P.E.O.'s helpful and dependable B.I.L.'s, died in 1967.

Mrs. Bessie Rodrick Raney
1947-1949

Mrs. Bessie Rodrick Raney was born in Galion, Ohio, reared and educated in Washington, D.C., where she and Mr. Roscoe James Raney were married in 1906. In the same year she was initiated into P.E.O. as a charter member of Chapter C, District of Columbia, by the organizer of Supreme Chapter, Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves.

Mrs. Raney became a charter member of Chapter C, New York, in 1911 and later transferred her membership to Chapter A, Chicago.

Bessie Rodrick Raney

She was elected to the executive board of Illinois State Chapter as corresponding secretary, and became president in 1928. Illinois State Chapter appointed her chairman of a special committee on unaffiliated P.E.O.'s in the Chicago area in 1930, and during that year twelve new chapters were organized as the result of her work.

Mrs. Raney was appointed to the board of trustees of the Educational Fund in 1931, and to a Committee of One for the P.E.O. Memorial Library in May, 1937. She was elected president of Supreme Chapter at the convention in Los Angeles, 1947. During Mrs. Raney's administration, Winona Evans Reeves Hall, a dormitory at Cottey Collge, was constructed, and was dedicated on May 23, 1949. At her convention in Chicago the recommendation of the committee, appointed to study needed reduction of the convention delegation of Supreme Chapter, was adopted and a substantial reduction made. The warm generous personality of Mrs. Raney was reflected in her convention.

Laura Storms Knapp

Mrs. Laura Storms Knapp 1949-1951

Mrs. Laura Storms Knapp was born in Hudson, Michigan, the second of the three daughters of Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boynton Storms. Dr. Storms was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the daughters were educated in the public schools of Detroit, Michigan; Madison, Wisconsin; and Des Moines, Iowa; where he held pastorates, and in Ames, Iowa, where they moved in 1903 when Dr. Storms was appointed president of Iowa

State College, now Iowa State University. Laura was graduated from that school in 1910 and taught for several years in the Home Economics Department of the Kansas State Agricultural College, now Kansas State University, Manhattan. She was married to Seaman Knapp, Ames insurance man, and in 1962 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Seaman, Jr., and Boynton.

Mrs. Knapp was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter AA, Ames, in 1910, and remained a member of that chapter. She was president of Iowa State Chapter, 1932-1933, and was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter in 1939 at Houston, Texas. She served as president 1949-1951. In 1955 she was appointed to the board of trustees of Cottey College, and was the chairman the last two years of the seven-year term. With the four years ex officio on that board, Laura gave a total of eleven years service to Cottey. The first Cottey Seminar was held in 1950 and has been held each even numbered year since.

Among the many responsibilities accepted by Laura Knapp in her work with P.E.O. are: supervision of the formal inauguration of Blanche Hinman Dow as president of Cottey College; member of the Building Committee, Robertson Hall; chairman of the Furnishing Committee, Robertson Hall; and member of the Building Committee, Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library. An unusual privilege came to Laura when, in 1945, she took P.E.O. to Alaska by the organization of Chapter A, Ketchikan, and Chapter B, Fairbanks.

In addition to her service to P.E.O., Mrs. Knapp has other activities, including the Methodist Church, Pi Beta Phi sorority, and other social and civic groups. She is an enthusiastic person, well liked, and has a great capacity for accomplishing many things.

Mrs. Mabel Scurrah
1951-1953

Mrs. Mabel Scurrah is the only past president of Supreme Chapter from Canada. She is also a past president of British Columbia Provincial Chapter; she was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter in the Victoria convention in 1941 after serving as general chairman of the convention; and she presided over the convention of Supreme Chapter in Vancouver in 1953.

Mrs. Scurrah was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter E, Victoria, in 1929. As first vice president of Supreme Chapter, she supervised the first Cottey College Seminar in 1950. During her administration the second Cottey Seminar was held, and much groundwork was done for the Cottey Chapel Building Program, a splendid project of the B.I.L.'s. Also of historic interest was the dedication of a memorial stone to the founder, Mrs. Franc Roads Elliott, in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, September 28, 1952.

Mrs. Scurrah is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Dynes and was born in Orangeville, Ontario, Canada. With her parents, both of whom were of Canadian birth, she went to British Columbia early in the century. In 1910 she moved to Victoria where she married Percival Beal Scurrah, president of Scurrahs, Ltd., who later became mayor of Victoria and president of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities in Canada. As official representatives they attended the coronation of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. They have received her Majesty and Prince Philip, Princess Margaret, and Princess Alexandra, and have twice received the Lord Mayor of London.

Mabel Scurrah

The Scurrahs have three daughters, June Halkett and Joyce Kjekstad of Victoria, and Patsy Joan Jennings of Nanaimo, British Columbia. Mrs. Scurrah has acquired numerous activities: Regional Council of Canadian Clubs, of British Columbia, National Association of Canadian Clubs, First Church of Christ Scientist, Canadian Red Cross, and in 1936 received recognition by the Millinery Institute of America as one of the Best Hatted Women in America. The Mabel Scurrah Collection of Period Gowns is scheduled for placement in the archives of the new Provincial Museum. (The Scurrahs have been connected with Women's Fashions for many years.)

Mrs. Gertrude Porter Tomhave
1953-1955

Mrs. Gertrude Porter Tomhave has been described as kind, considerate, and efficient, a person of unusual spiritual depth. She was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter Q, Montevideo, Minnesota, in 1921, and later became a member of Chapter CA, Minneapolis.

Mrs. Tomhave is a past president of the Minnesota State Chapter, and served six years as a member of the board of trustees of the Educational Fund. She was president of Supreme Chapter, 1953-1955, presiding at the Indianapolis convention. During that biennium fund-raising for Cottey Chapel, a B.I.L. project, was completed and construction started. Later she served on the Finance Committee for a short time preceding her appointment as chairman of the Building and Furnishing Committee for the P.E.O. Executive Office in Des Moines, Iowa.

Gertrude Porter Tomhave

Gertrude Tomhave was born in Willmar, Minnesota. She attended Saint Cloud Teachers College, Saint Cloud, Minnesota, and studied music at the New York Conservatory of Music. She was a teacher of music before her marriage to John B. Tomhave, druggist, now retired, who has served as head of the Scottish Rite in Minnesota, and member of Supreme Council, Washington, D.C.; past president and treasurer of the Minnesota Pharmacy Association. The Tomhaves were parents of two children, Col. John Porter Tomhave, a West Point graduate who was killed in World War II, and a daughter, Jill Tomhave Silver, a graduate of Vassar and Western Reserve University, now living in Tokyo. She is a successful business woman in the aviation industry which she entered following the death of her husband. There are four grandchildren. Other interests of Mrs. Tomhave include Westminster Presbyterian Church, Girl Scout Council, the Y.W.C.A., the Minneapolis Women's Club, the Minnesota Scottish Rite Women's Club, and Auxiliary of Minnesota Pharmacy Association.

Mrs. Nell Farrell Stevenson
1955-1957

Mrs. Nell Farrell Stevenson reflected her own strength of character, and presented a thoughtful vision of the future of P.E.O. when she wrote: "What P.E.O. will be in the future only P.E.O.'s can determine, for only as P.E.O.'s represent to the world the ideals on which we were founded, will the world realize the true worth of P.E.O."

Mrs. Stevenson was appointed to the board of trustees of The P.E.O. Record in 1939 by Mrs. Veda M. Jones. She worked closely with Mrs. Winona Evans Reeves, editor of The P.E.O. Record, and the two enjoyed a delightful friendship. She is a past president of Oklahoma State Chapter and was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter in Saint Paul in 1945. She became president in

1955 and presided at the convention of Supreme Chapter in Denver in 1957. Nell served on the building committees for Cottey Chapel and for the P.E.O. Executive Office. She was made a Cottey College Associate in 1964, by the unanimous vote of the board of trustees of Cottey College.

The highlight of the administration of Mrs. Stevenson was certainly the dedication of the Chapel at Cottey College, this was the culmination of work done through two or even three administrations. Building the Chapel was the splendid project of B.I.L.'s in Canada and the United States. The incorporation of Cottey College was another important accomplishment.

Nell Farrell Stevenson

Mrs. Stevenson was born in Bowling Green, Missouri, the daughter of John and Mary McCune Farrell. She attended the University of Missouri and studied in private dramatic schools in Saint Louis, being a concert reader before her marriage to Dr. James Stevenson, dermatologist (deceased, 1955). She has a son, James Farrell Stevenson, a former college professor of history, who is now reference librarian and archivist for the Tulsa City-County Central Library. A talented speaker and writer, she is well known for her program contributions on many occasions and for the book reviews she presents as a hobby. She is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, and other interests include the National Association of Parliamentarians, the College Club, the Women's Auxiliary to the Tulsa County Medical Society, and the Amber Rotary Anns. Nell is a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

She was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter AZ, Oklahoma, as a charter member in 1922. Later she became a charter member of Chapter B, Massachusetts, and in 1926 was received into Chapter BA, Tulsa, her present chapter.

Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard
1957-1959

Mrs. Alice Spensley Rinehard was a charter member and the first president of Chapter AB, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, organized in March, 1931. She is a past president of Wisconsin State Chapter;

served six years, 1943-1949, as a trustee of the P.E.O. Supply Department; and was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter at the Chicago convention in 1949. She presided over the well planned and well executed convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1959. From 1959 to 1966 she served on the Finance Committee of Supreme Chapter.

During Mrs. Rinehard's administration it was decided to locate the P.E.O. Executive Office in Des Moines, Iowa, and to build rather than rent or buy a building. Income tax problems that developed during her administration required much time and study. At the 1959 convention the scholarship program was established as the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund, and necessary sections were included in the bylaws.

Mrs. Rinehard was born in Linden, Wisconsin, the daughter of John B. and Edith Eden Spensley. She received her B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1922 and returned for graduate study in 1924. She is married to Clarence E. Rinehard, a retired Judge of Nineteenth Circuit of Wisconsin. The Rinehards have a daughter, Doris, and three grandchildren. Mrs. Rinehard is a past president of the Chippewa Falls Women's Club and district parliamentarian. She is a member of the Methodist church. Other affiliations include A.A.U.W., the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Order of Eastern Star. She has served on the Girl Scout Council, and as a director for both Family Service for Chippewa Falls and the Children's Aid Society of Wisconsin. Alice delights in gardening and in knitting.

Alice Spensley Rinehard

Mrs. Margaret Emily Stoner
1959-1961

Mrs. Margaret Emily Stoner was born in Greencastle, Indiana, the daughter of Walter M. and Elizabeth Matthews McGaughey. She received her A.B. degree from DePauw University in 1927, being graduated with high distinction and Phi Beta Kappa honors. She is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. In June 1965 she received from DePauw University its Alumni Citation Award in recognition of outstanding achievements and volunteer service. She is married to

Simpson M. Stoner, who formerly owned an insurance agency in Greencastle, Indiana, but who has been president of the First Citizens Bank and Trust Company since 1962. The Stoners also have a residence in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In both Indiana and Florida the Stoners enjoy the company of Margaret Emily's mother. All three are members of the Methodist Church.

Margaret Emily Stoner

Both Mrs. Stoner and her mother are members of Chapter I, Greencastle, Indiana. Margaret Emily is a past president of Indiana State Chapter. She served on the board of trustees of the P.E.O. Educational Fund for six years, 1945-1951, the last two as chairman. Margaret Emily was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter at the Philadelphia convention in 1951. She served on the board as recording secretary, in the three vice president offices, and as president, presiding over the convention of Supreme Chapter in Washington, D.C., in 1961. The Executive Office building was dedicated September 10, 1960. During Mrs. Stoner's administration a study of P.E.O. business procedures was made by a firm of management consultants, resulting in many improvements. P.E.O. investment funds were moved to the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, after careful investigation by the executive board and the Finance Committee. Cottey Junior College, Cottey Junior College Endowment Fund, and Cottey Junior College Building Fund were granted tax exemption under the United States Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3). The P.E.O. Foundation was established by action of the 1961 convention of Supreme Chapter. At present Mrs. Stoner is serving as chairman of the Amendments and Recommendations Committee for Supreme Chapter.

Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey
1961-1963

Mrs. Ruth W. Rippey, a past president of Arizona State Chapter, held P.E.O. membership in Minnesota and in Iowa, where she was an initiate of Chapter DH, Sioux City, Iowa, in 1927. She served on the board of trustees of The P.E.O. Record for six years before her election to the executive board of Supreme Chapter in 1951. Mrs. Rippey was elected president of Supreme Chapter at the Washington, D.C., convention in 1961, and presided at the convention in Columbus, Ohio, in 1963. She was serving as a member of the Finance Committee of Supreme Chapter at the time of her death March 1, 1968.

Ruth W. Rippey

In her administration the P.E.O. Educational Fund, the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund and the P.E.O. Foundation, were cleared for tax exemption under the United States Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3). The memorial rooms in the P.E.O. Memorial Building on the Iowa Wesleyan campus were redecorated and reconditioned. Contracts were let for building the Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library at Cottey College.

Ruth W. Rippey was born in Springfield, Missouri, the daughter of William H. and Katharine Roberts Williams. She lived in Geneva, New York, most of her early years, attending Wheaton preparatory School before her entrance to Vassar College, from which she received her A.B. degree. She was married shortly after graduation to Dr. Edwin F. Rippey, a Presbyterian minister, who died in 1960, while Mrs. Rippey was first vice president of Supreme Chapter. Dr. Rippey had held pastorates in Marion, Indiana; Sioux City, Iowa; and Minneapolis, Minnesota, before moving to Phoenix Arizona, in 1932. Ruth became a member of Chapter H, Phoenix, in 1933.

Dr. and Mrs. Rippey had two children, a son Thomas E., a public relations counselor, and a daughter Katharine R. Coerver, whose husband is a banker. Katharine was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter H, Phoenix, and is now a member of Chapter B, Tucson. She is a past president of Arizona State Chapter. A lovely portrait of Mrs. Rippey hangs in the conference room of the Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library at Cottey College. Furnishings in the conference room were a gift in her honor from Arizona State Chapter.

Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse
1963-June 13, 1964

Mrs. Uretta A. Hinkhouse, Orange, New Jersey, was installed as president of Supreme Chapter at the 1963 convention in Columbus, Ohio. She was past president of New Jersey State Chapter and served

P.E.O. in many important appointments. In 1953 she was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter and served biennial terms in succeeding offices. For six years, 1947-1953, she was a member of the board of trustees of The P.E.O. Record. Mrs. Hinkhouse was a member of the Peace Participation Committee. She was the Accredited Observer for P.E.O. at the United Nations, from 1946, when the headquarters were first established in New York City, until her election to the executive board of Supreme Chapter. As such she attended and reported many meetings and activities of United Nations. That was an unusual page in P.E.O. history shared with Margretta G. McConnell who continued the work for six years.

Uretta A. Hinkhouse

Mrs. Hinkhouse, a daughter of Thomas and Nellie Ball Amis, was born in South Orange, New Jersey, and attended Hunter College, New York City. She lived in Egypt seven years, where her father represented an American Oil Company, and where she taught in the American College for Girls and in the Ezbekiah Girls School, both in Cairo, under the United Presbyterian Mission. Mrs. Hinkhouse met her husband, Paul M. Hinkhouse, in Egypt when he was teaching in Assiut College. Subsequently he taught in Bangkok Christian College, Thailand, and the College of Yale in China. He was president of Hinkhouse, Inc., color lithographers, New York City. Paul and Uretta Hinkhouse traveled extensively including one trip through South America as members of a Presbyterian seminar.

Mrs. Hinkhouse was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, East Orange, New Jersey. She was past president of the Women's Presbyterian Society of Morris and Orange, a member of the Woman's Press Club of New York City, and of the National Farm and Garden Association. She served as trustee of the Young Women's Christian Association of Orange and Maplewood. She was initiated into P.E.O. by Chapter A, Chicago, in 1926, was a member of Chapter A, Newark, New Jersey and in 1932 became a member of Chapter C, East Orange. At the time of death, June 13, 1964, she was president of Supreme Chapter. During her time as president the Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library was dedicated. She attended and was one of the speakers. Her New Jersey P.E.O. sisters said of her, following her installation as president: "We are deeply grateful for your intellectual vision, your unselfishness of service, and your unswerving support in our common endeavor for P.E.O. Whenever there appears spiritual attituded, blended with lowly service, it is Uretta, helping somebody."

Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt
June 13, 1964-1965

Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, a past president of Nebraska State Chapter, was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter at the Indianapolis convention, 1955. As first vice president, at the time of the death of the president of Supreme Chapter, Uretta A. Hinkhouse, Irene was required to assume the duties of the presidency under difficult circumstances. She conscientiously fulfilled the obligations of the office, bringing them to conclusion at the beautifully planned Atlantic City convention in 1965. Mrs. Van Brunt served as chairman of the first board of trustees of the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund. The 1965 convention of Supreme Chapter voted to incorporate the P.E.O. Foundation.

Irene S. Van Brunt

During the 1963-1965 biennium a new President's Book was sent to each local chapter. A Handbook for President of State Chapter, January, 1965; and Suggestions for Recording Secretary of State Chapter, 1965, were sent to state chapters.

Mrs. Van Brunt is a native of Omaha, Nebraska, the daughter of Dr. John E. and Anna Petersen Simpson, both now deceased and both also born in Omaha of pioneer Nebraska families. Irene attended Wellesley College and the University of Nebraska, from which she holds the A.B. degree. She is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Irene is the wife of Winslow M. Van Brunt, insurance executive. They have a son, Winslow, Jr., and two daughters: Alice Van Brunt Busse, AY, Houston, Texas, and Beth Van Brunt Weigel, RV, Danville, California. Both are initiates of their mother's chapter, Chapter DD, Omaha, in which their grandmother also held membership, and was president at the time of Irene's initiation into P.E.O. in February, 1928.

Mrs. Van Brunt has served as secretary for the alumnae association for her sorority in Omaha, and as president of Wellesley Club. Both she and her husband are dedicated members of the University of Nebraska Alumni Association, serving in official capacities. Irene is a past matron of Vesta Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, and has held offices in the Women's Association of Dundee Presbyterian Church. She has beautiful antique furnishings in her home, many of which are treasured heirlooms. She is particularly fond of antique silver. She has collected many recipes in her P.E.O. travels and enjoys experimenting with them, and she just loves to visit with her two grandchildren.

Mrs. Amy Olmsted Welch

Mrs. Amy Olmsted Welch is a native Oregonian, having been born in northeastern Wallowa County midst the grandeur of mountains. She graduated from the University of Washington with a major in philosophy and minor in music. Since marriage to Arthur E. Welch her permanent home has been in Portland.

Mrs. Welch was initiated into Chapter Z, Portland; lived an interim of three years in Los Angeles where she belonged to Chapter GB; returned to Portland and became a member of Chapter AN, for which she had chosen the charter list. She served in five offices of Oregon State Chapter. She was appointed to the board of trustees of The P.E.O. Record and was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter, where she served in six of the offices, completing the presidency at the convention of 1967 in Seattle, Washington.

Amy Olmsted Welch

Other interests have been in her social sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, which awarded her the Distinguished Citizen Award in 1966. Music related activity has included sixteen years as organist-director of music in her church, the presidency of Western Division Music Teachers National Association, and editorship for thirteen years of the publication for the Oregon Association.

An extraordinary feature of this administration was launching the centennial project, authorized by the 1965 convention. In August, 1967, the contract was signed for construction of the P.E.O.

Centennial Center at Des Moines, Iowa, a building in which the growing significance of the P.E.O. Sisterhood may be apparent. The building is under construction and is expected to be finished by October, 1969, when the P.E.O. centennial convention meets in Des Moines.

25 *History in the Making*

Little Convention

An event of historical importance was the first district meeting of a group of subordinate chapters Friday, October 7, 1966, in Jefferson, New Hampshire. It was a joint meeting of ten subordinate chapters in Quebec, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, represented by fifty-five members. Eleven P.E.O. members from other areas and five official guests attended. Hostess chapters were Chapters A and E of Vermont.

It was a one day "little convention" with a model meeting, inspirational talks, and a question and answer discussion. The meeting was planned by Mrs. Florence M. Wallace, then organizer of Supreme Chapter.

Mrs. Marie K. Busch was the representative of Supreme Chapter. Mrs. Irene M. Snell, also of the executive board of Supreme Chapter, was a guest. Both spoke at the convention. Other speakers were Mrs. Alice Barrows, past president of Massachusetts State Chapter and trustee of the P.E.O. Educational Fund; Mrs. Florence A. Rood, International Peace Scholarship chairman of Massachusetts State Chapter; and Jean Marie Collaco of Bombay, a second year graduate student at Mount Holyoke College. Jean was a P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship student.

Conference for Presidents and Organizers of State Chapters

Another new event of historical significance to P.E.O. is the first conference planned for presidents and organizers of state chapters. The following announcement of the conference was made in The P.E.O. Record, April, 1968, by Mrs. Ethel O. Gardner, president of Supreme Chapter:

> For many years presidents and organizers of state chapters have mentioned that there is never enough time at conventions of Supreme Chapter to discuss problems relative to their office. While some instruction was received, there was little communication and little opportunity for an exchange of ideas. The executive board of Supreme Chapter is most happy to announce that plans are being made to hold the first Conference of Presidents and Organizers of State Chapters August 16 and 17, 1968, on the campus of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. It is expected that every state chapter president and organizer will be present as the guest of Supreme Chapter to participate in valuable discussion groups covering numerous subjects. This conference will be an important milestone in the development of communication among state chapters, and in turn bringing closer the state chapters and Supreme Chapter (10, April, 1968, p. 1).

Reciprocity Groups

Reciprocity Groups have held an important place in P.E.O. history for perhaps half a century. The name refers to groups of local chapters within any given area brought together for social activities and inspirational or informational programs. The highly important function accomplished by such groups is contact with, and extension of, courtesies to unaffiliated active members within the area. A reciprocity reference printed in The P.E.O. Record (first listing, September, 1967) lists contact persons for reciprocity organizations.

Outstanding P.E.O.'s

In P.E.O. there are certain individuals who year after year hold offices or important committee assignments; P.E.O.'s who function efficiently and cheerfully, each making a tremendous contribution to the organization. This may be within local or state chapters or in the area of Supreme Chapter.

Rose Owens, Nebraska, was one of these. Trained in finance she was responsible for most of the financial policies adopted by P.E.O. through the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's. She served year after year as treasurer of Supreme Chapter.

Lucille Moore Shields, New York, Leah S. Shirey, California, Dr. Ruth G. White, California, and Beulah M. Thornton, Illinois, all served on the executive board of Supreme Chapter within the last two decades, 1948-1968, but did not continue to the presidency. Yet each was a tower of strength within her own sphere of P.E.O. influence.

Helen Hays Hutton and Dorothy Jordan Livermore are two who have held important P.E.O. assignments throughout most of their mature lives. Helen has been president of two state chapters, South Dakota and Tennessee, served as a trustee of the Supply Department, a member of the Finance Committee, and in 1967 became a member of the P.E.O. Foundation.

Dorothy Livermore, currently serving as the first chairman of the Buildings Committee, finished a six-year assignment on the Finance Committee in October, 1967. She is a past president of Michigan State Chapter, and was a member of the only Post-war Planning Committee, 1943-1945.

Members of subsidiary boards serve P.E.O. for many years. Appointments are made for six years unless to finish out the term of another member. Most appointees have already served several years as officers of local chapters, and perhaps six or seven years as officers of state chapters.

These are examples. For each one a dozen more might be named. Members such as these are found in every area of P.E.O. and have made impressive contributions to P.E.O. history.

Centennial Plans

Centennial anniversaries do not pass unnoticed, rather, they are anticipated years in advance, and plans are perfected for the best possible commemoration. A note of joyous expectancy prevails and the honoree, whether person, place, or organization, becomes increasingly important to those who would bestow honor by remembrance.

So it is with the P.E.O. centennial. Active plans for commemorating the centennial anniversary of P.E.O. were set in motion at the 1961 convention of Supreme Chapter in Washington, D.C. The president, Mrs. Margaret Emily Stoner, announced the following appointees to the Centennial Committee, or Centennial Commission, as it became known: Mrs. Helen Tuttle, Iowa, chairman; Mrs. Stella Clapp, Kansas; Mrs. Alice S. Funk, Illinois; Mrs. Maud Henderson, Missouri; Mrs. Maybelle Hoffman, Colorado; Mrs. Ada Mead, Nebraska; Miss Bessie Salley, South Carolina; Mrs. Marjorie Smith, Washington; and Mrs. Victoria Wilson, Manitoba, Canada. Past presidents of Supreme Chapter were designated to serve in an advisory capacity. Miss Rose Penfield, daughter of Suela Pearson Penfield, and Mrs. Alice Babb Ewing, daughter of Alice Bird Babb, were named as honorary members.

On Mrs. Maud Henderson's resignation, Mrs. Lilas M. Brandhorst, Missouri, was appointed to the vacancy. Mrs. Marian Grant, Idaho, accepted appointment as a new member of the commission. During the 1963-1965 biennium Mrs. Marjorie Smith, having been appointed a trustee of the Educational Fund, resigned from the commission. The commission lost two by death: Miss Rose Penfield, an honorary member, and Miss Bessie E. Salley.

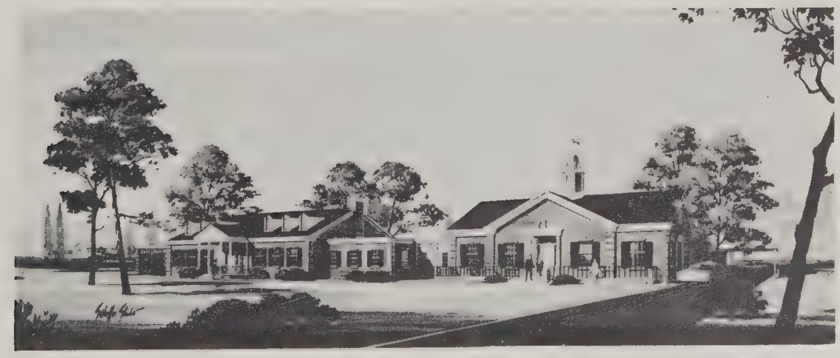
The function of the commission was to explore ideas, to suggest commemorative features, and to assist in developing an appropriate commemorative program for the centennial of P.E.O. Numerous proposals were studied and recommendations made. Following are some of the items adopted and put into operation. Others will fall into place at the proper time.

At the 1963 convention of Supreme Chapter in Atlantic City the Supply Department, with the approval of the executive board and the assistance of members of the Centennial Commission, placed two centennial items on sale. After convention the items were handled in the office of the Supply Department.

The 1965 convention adopted a centennial project—erecting a building on land owned by P.E.O. adjacent to the P.E.O. Executive Office, the building to be financed by voluntary gifts from chapters or individual members. If desired, gifts may be made in memory of, or in honor of, some designated person. The building will honor the thousands of members who played so large a part in the development of P.E.O.

The financial response was excellent, with many chapters responding to the suggestion, "One hundred dollars to commemorate one hundred years of P.E.O." Construction on the building, named P.E.O. Centennial Center, was started in 1967. Plans call for it to be completed by October, 1969, when the centennial convention meets in Des Moines. Plans for the P.E.O. Centennial Center appeared in The P.E.O. Record, December, 1967.

The uses of such a building are certain to be many and varied. Following are several paragraphs from the 1967 biennial report of the P.E.O. Centennial Building Committee composed of Mrs. Ada Mead, Nebraska, chairman; Mrs. Jane Dorschel, Wisconsin; and Mrs. Joan Milligan, Des Moines, Iowa:



Executive Office and Centennial Center, Des Moines (Artist's Drawing)

> The first and most important purpose of any commemoration is 'to call to remembrance.' So this center is to cause all P.E.O.'s to remember, not only the seven Founders of our Sisterhood, but the thousands of others who have given loyalty and leadership to local, state, provincial and Supreme Chapters in these 100 years.
>
> The building is designed as a center to inspire and encourage creative activity in and knowledge and appreciation of the many varied expressions of art, music, drama and literature.
>
> We can visualize a meeting of the president or executive board of Supreme Chapter with the president of each State or Provincial Chapter once in a biennium; a meeting of...organizers...state corresponding secretaries...
>
> But surely the use of the facilities should not be limited to these groups. Development of interest in and understanding of international relations, world peace, spiritual growth and many kindred interests are implicit in our objects and aims....
>
> Because we believe the Centennial Center is a fitting symbol of the Objects and Aims of our Sisterhood, we have faith to believe that the financial needs for this center will be met and that the Sisterhood will move steadily forward along the path which our experience has pointed out as the one of 'wisdom and righteousness.'
>
> If from this center can emanate a greater faith in God, a deeper love and concern for others, a more profound awareness of the appreciation for the loveliness created by God through man, the Sisterhood will be blest, and will be a greater blessing than ever to our homes, our communities, our nation and world. Such awareness, such growth, might well be the finest memorial we can build to our founders, the highest tribute we can pay to our contemporary leaders, the finest heritage we can leave to the succeeding generations of P.E.O. who will follow after us (13, c, pp. 111-112).

The philosophy that guided the choice of the P.E.O. Centennial Center is that it will honor hundreds of P.E.O.'s and will reflect the vivid, vital, philanthropic and educational organization that is P.E.O. as it launches into its second century.

On recommendation of the Centennial Commission, centennial chairmen were appointed in provincial, state, district and local chapters, with local chapter chairmen responsible to provincial, state and district chairmen, and the last responsible to commission members. One member of the Centennial Commission, Mrs. Alice S. Funk, resigned during the 1965-1967 biennium and five new members were appointed to the Commission: Mrs. Pat L. Harris, Georgia; Mrs. Ann Landback, Michigan; Mrs. Alice Lomoe Mitchell, Wisconsin; Mrs. Elizabeth Speer, Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Edith C. Thompson, Quebec, Canada. Centennial information is being channeled to chapters by letter and through articles in The P.E.O. Record. Chapters will develop their own centennial programs. It is expected that many excellent, creative programs will evolve.

Centennial Volume of History

The history project began in 1959 with the appointment of Mrs. Stella Clapp, past president of Kansas State Chapter, as historian. The appointment carried the request that something be in print for the centennial year. Exhaustive research was done and a book outlined and approved by the executive board of Supreme Chapter. OUT OF THE HEART: A CENTURY OF P.E.O. is that book and this chapter is the last. In 1966 the executive board appointed Mrs. Irene S. Van Brunt, past president Supreme Chapter, and Mrs. Alvina Mattes, editor of The P.E.O. Record, to serve with the historian as a Publication Committee. Printing by Jacob North, Inc., of Lincoln, Nebraska, was scheduled to start in April, 1968, with September delivery and distribution to chapters in October, 1968. Twenty thousand copies were ordered and the history will be handled by the Supply Department as a regular item of sale.

Other centennial plans are incomplete, but certain it is that the P.E.O. centennial year can be a joyous time of remembrance and of rededication to P.E.O. with its ideals, its fine traditions, and its great potential.

P.E.O. Membership March 1, 1968

Membership auditing for 1968 has not been completed but the apparent number of active P.E.O. members as of March 1, 1968, is 165,778 in 4,216 chapters.

Officers of Supreme Chapter
1967-1969

Mrs. Ethel O. Gardner, President

Ethel Oliver Gardner was born in Collingswood, New Jersey. Her family moved to Glendale, California, while she was in high school. She received her A. B. degree from the University of Southern California where she was president of the Associated Women Students, and a member of Mortar Board and Delta Delta Delta.

While doing graduate work at Stanford University, she met Edwin Lee Gardner. They were married the following year and established a home in Ventura, California, where Mr. Gardner's family were pioneer ranchers.

Mrs. Gardner was initiated into Chapter IU, Ventura, California, in 1937. The Gardners have one daughter, Louise Ann, who is a member of her mother's chapter.

Community activities have been varied for both Ethel and her husband. Mr. Gardner, a former mayor of Ventura, is at present jury commissioner for Ventura County. Mrs. Gardner has served on

Ethel O. Gardner

the board of trustees of Ventura High School, was superintendent of the Church School of the Presbyterian Church, and for several years served on the high school faculty.

Mrs. Irene Kerr, First Vice President

Irene Kerr is a native of Central City, Nebraska, the daughter of Hugh Francis McDermott and Brownie Stearns McDermott, both now deceased. Her father was a native of Montreal, Canada, and her mother of Brillion, Wisconsin. Irene attended summer sessions at the University of Nebraska, and Colorado, and became a registered pharmacist.

She is the wife of Ewing T. Kerr, District Judge for Wyoming. Judge and Mrs. Kerr have a son, a daughter and one granddaughter. Irene is Past Matron of Oak Leaf Chapter and Past Grand Matron of Wyoming, and served on ritual committee of General Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star. She was initiated into Chapter C, Cheyenne in 1938, dimitted in 1944 to become a charter member of Chapter Z.

Irene Kerr

Her special interest outside of P.E.O. is mental health and mental retardation. She served on the board of South East Wyoming Mental Health Center, was president of Laramie County Mental Health Association, and currently is a member of the board of the State Association and of several advisory committees. She was a member of the first Governor's Commission in Wyoming on the Status of Women. She is a member of the Episcopal Church, and other affiliations include Woman's Club, Daughters of the Nile, American Legion Auxiliary, National Business and Professional Women's Club, Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Y.W.C.A. (past president) and De Paul Hospital Guild (past president).

Miss Helen F. Evers, Second Vice President

Helen Evers' first contact with P.E.O. was at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, when she was in charge of a tea in Winfield for delegates attending the 1929 convention of Kansas State Chapter in Arkansas City. She was initiated into Chapter CU in 1935; elected to the executive board of Kansas State Chapter in 1950, where she served in all offices except that of recording secretary. The 1956 convention of Kansas State Chapter in Wichita culminated her year as president. Helen was appointed to the board of trustees of the Educational Fund in 1957 and served as chairman in 1959-1961. She was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter as recording secretary at the convention in Washington, D.C., in 1961.

Helen F. Evers

Miss Evers, a native Kansan, is the daughter of the late James W. and Laura N. Evers of Whitman and Winfield, Kansas. She received her M.S. in Foods and Nutrition from Kansas State University, Manhattan, and was elected to membership in Phi Kappa Phi, national scholastic fraternity, and Omicron Nu, national home economics fraternity. She has done advanced work at Colorado State University and Oregon State University.

For twenty years Helen was professor of Foods and Nutrition at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, and was a leader in state and national home economics professional organizations.

Her special interests outside P.E.O. include the Grace Methodist Church where she was recording steward for the church, and recording secretary for the official board for a number of years. She keeps in touch with her former students and each Christmas brings her many happy memories as pictures of her "grandchildren" arrive.

Mrs. Florence Myers Wallace, Third Vice President

Florence Myers Wallace is a native of Iowa and a member of Chapter HP in Des Moines. She was initiated into her mother's chapter, EH, in 1925. Her three sisters are P.E.O.'s, also. She served six years on the executive board of Iowa State Chapter, six as a trustee of the P.E.O. Supply Department, and was elected to the executive board of Supreme Chapter in 1963.

Florence's father was born in Salem, Iowa, and lived next door to Winona Evans Reeves. His mother was a Quaker leader in Salem. Florence attended Drake University, later received the distinguished alumni award, and presently is a member of its board of trustees. She had three children: Elizabeth Myers Henderson, who recently served as president of Chapter LR, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mary Helen, who died at age fifteen; and James W. Myers with the Sunbeam Company in Riverside, Illinois. Their father died in 1957. Florence is now Mrs. Marion E. Wallace, the wife of a recently retired executive of the Stoner System, Inc.

Florence M. Wallace

Firmly believing in the "we-the-people" form of government, Florence Wallace and her family have found the community a vital place to demonstrate that philosophy. Her mother was the first woman appointed United States Collector of Customs. Florence has served the city in many capacities including four years as councilwoman. Other areas of service are as president of the P.T.A. council; board member of the United Community Service; founder of the Children's Hospital Guild; member of the National Council of Camp Fire Girls, Inc.; and chairman of the Des Moines Friendship and Sister-City Commission. The Wallaces are active members of the Central Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Marie K. Busch, Organizer

Marie K. Busch was born and reared in Buffalo, New York, the daughter of Henrietta and Otto G. Keller. She was educated in the schools of Buffalo, including the University of Buffalo. She is the wife of Harvey W. Busch, recently retired from National Aniline Division of Allied Chemical Corporation and now with Fisher-Price Toy Company. They have one daughter, Susan B. Cullen, who was initiated into Chapter S, Buffalo, New York, during Marie's term as president. There are two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Peter.

Mrs. Busch was initiated into Chapter S. Many years later she selected the charter list for Chpter BI, Buffalo, where both she and her daughter are presently members. She served six years on the executive board of New York State Chapter, as president, 1961-1962. She was appointed as a member of the board of trustees of the

Educational Fund in 1963 and served until appointed to fill a vacancy on the executive board of Supreme Chapter in 1964.

An active member of the Central Park Methodist Church, Marie has served as president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service; as district treasurer of the Genesee Conference; as member of the executive board of United Church Women; and as an appointee on numerous committees. She has worked as church school teacher and adviser to youth groups for over twenty-five years.

Besides service to family, church, community, and P.E.O., Marie likes gardening, refinishing furniture, raising African violets, collecting and trying recipes, bird watching, and reading.

Marie K. Busch

Mrs. Marjorie W. Smith, Recording Secretary

Marjorie Wilder Smith was born in Humboldt, Iowa, the daughter of A. E. and Edna Edmunds Wilder. She received a B.A. degree from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, her parents' alma mater. At Grinnell she was a member of Pi Epsilon Delta, national drama honorary society. Marjorie was married to Warren H. Smith, a graduate of the University of Iowa, School of Dentistry. They have one son, Greg, a college student majoring in communications.

Mrs. Smith was initiated into Chapter CP, Iowa, a third generation member. Chapter CP was the original chapter of her mother, grandmother, and two aunts as well as her husband's mother, aunt, and sister-in-law. Another aunt, a member of Chapter DJ, Fort Dodge, Iowa, is a fifty-nine year member, and a sister-in-law is a member of Chapter BO, California.

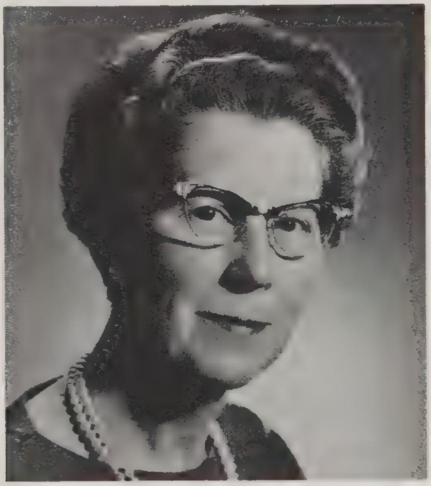
Marjorie W. Smith

Since 1946 Marjorie has been a member of Chapter CL, Spokane, Washington. She has served the chapter as president twice and has held most of the other chapter offices. She was president of Washington State Chapter, 1959-1960, served on the executive board six years, and was a member of the Centennial Commission until 1962 when she was appointed to the board of trustees for the Educational Fund.

Marjorie is a member of the Audubon Park Methodist Church, where she has served on the board of trustees, commission on missions, and as president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. She is also a Past Matron of the Order of Eastern Star. Her personal interests include family, friends, collecting old and unusual glass, and reading. Her family enjoys the leisure life afforded at a mountain lake home in northern Idaho, forty miles from their home in Spokane.

Irene M. Snell, Corresponding Secretary

Irene M. Snell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ray Howe, was born, reared and educated in Syracuse, New York. She was married to W. Charles Snell and moved to Western Springs, Illinois, where Irene was initiated into Chapter DF. They were transferred to New Jersey (Western Electric Company) where Irene became a member of Chapter E, Westfield, and later became a charter member of Chapter N. She was elected to the executive board of the New Jersey State Chapter as corresponding secretary and served each succeeding office.


Irene M. Snell

Mr. and Mrs. Snell have two daughters, Marcia and Carol, both P.E.O.'s, and seven grandchildren.

Irene's activities have followed the interests of her family and church. She has served in the Sunday School, Girl Scouts, as a member of P.T.A. and Y.W.C.A. boards, as president of the Westfield Council of Churches, on the board of trustees of The Evergreens (Episcopal Home for the Aged) and the Altar Guild of her church. Irene's greatest challenge, serving as general chairman for the 1965 convention of the Supreme Chapter in Atlantic City, was handled with distinction.

Spirit of Life in this new dawn,
Give us the Faith to follow on,
Letting Thine all pervading power
Fulfill the dream of this high hour.
—Earl Marlatt

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